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MAY/JUNE 2023



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# *All That Sparkles* With the President General **PAMELA WRIGHT**



## **April Recognized as the Month of the Military Child**

April, the official Month of the Military Child, provides us with an opportunity to recognize and thank the children of our service members and veterans. Children shoulder the burdens of service from a young age, often enduring multiple deployments and making and leaving friends on a frequent basis. It is fitting to remember the youngest contributors to our nation's defense and freedom. ★

## **Marian Anderson's Legacy as a Famed Contralto and Civil Rights Activist Honored and Remembered**

Marian Anderson was one of the most beloved opera singers of the 20th century, celebrated for her glorious contralto as well as for breaking racial barriers in a deeply segregated America. The Historic Homes section focuses on the home Anderson purchased in Philadelphia to live in with her mother and sister and her practice studio in Danbury, Connecticut. Her Philadelphia home recently suffered tremendous water damage. In December 2022, the NSDAR announced a \$150,000 donation to aid in its repair so the home, now a museum, can eventually reopen. See page 30. ★







## Pass the Torch This Memorial Day

As Memorial Day approaches, the Conservation Committee asks Daughters to join a national campaign to observe the day with a time of remembrance. "Operation Pass the Torch" is the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier's national campaign to "reclaim Memorial Day for the noble and sacred reason for which it was intended—to honor those who died in service to our nation." Page 21. ★



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## Constitution Gardens in Phase II of Redesign

When visiting Washington, D.C., this summer for the 132nd Continental Congress, head to the National Mall to explore Constitution Gardens and the National World War II Memorial. Learn about DAR's contributions to these national treasures on page 12. ★

## A Never Forget Garden Can Be a Pollinator Garden!

Did you know that a Never Forget Garden can also be a pollinator garden? Page 22 provides information on planting a garden that fits criteria for both projects. ★



## Summer Travel: Yellowstone

Famous for geysers and grizzlies, our nation's first national park, Yellowstone, must be seen to be believed. Page 34. ★

## Retro Fabulousness in Continental Congress Photo Scrapbook

These elegant photos on page 46 offer a glimpse into past Continental Congresses. ★



## National Mall Map Helps Visitors Traverse the Sites, 'Welcome Home'

This "Welcome Home" issue provides a helpful packing checklist and a map for Daughters attending the 132nd Continental Congress. Although the map is not to scale, it may help Daughters find their way around the National Mall and locate sites they wish to visit during their stay. Page 29. ★



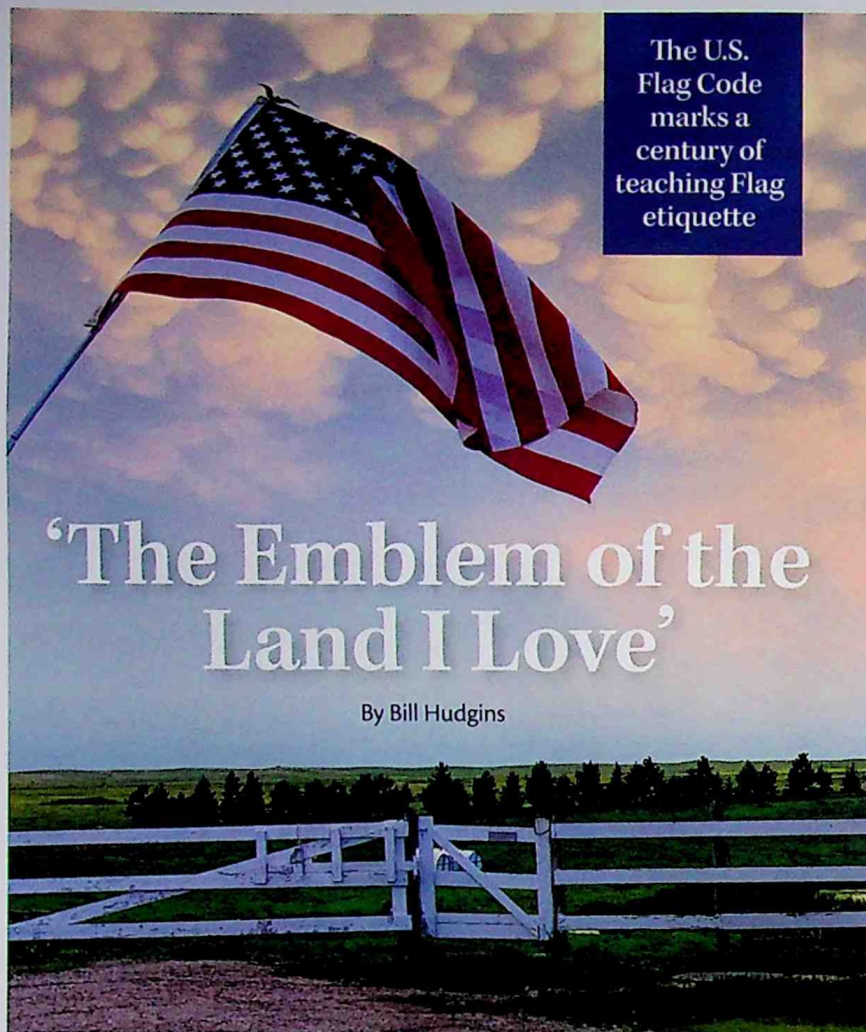
## My Patriot: Benjamin Franklin

North Carolina  
Daughter Kay Herr  
grew up knowing she

descended from this larger-than-life Patriot. She shares about her impressive family legacy on page 38. ★







The U.S. Flag Code marks a century of teaching Flag etiquette

# 'The Emblem of the Land I Love'

By Bill Hudgins

This year's observance of Flag Day on June 14 coincides with the 100th anniversary of the United States Flag Code, which proclaims the Flag "represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing" deserving the utmost respect.

The Flag Code's roots go back to the post-Civil War era. Union veterans who had fought under the Flag began to push for national rules to ensure its reverential treatment and prevent its exploitation for political and commercial purposes, according to the Smithsonian Institution. Before that time, it was not unusual for important mementos to be shared in

some fashion—by giving away pieces or allowing people to sign their names on the objects.

For example, this was the case with "The Star-Spangled Banner," the battle-scarred remnant of the magnificent garrison Flag that flew over Fort McHenry, Maryland, and inspired Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812.

The fort's commander, Major George Armistead, commissioned the 30 feet by 42 feet Flag and ordered his troops to raise it on September 14, 1814, as the British fleet began to retreat from the attack it had launched on the fort a day earlier. When Armistead's family donated it to the Smithsonian Institution in 1912, the Flag measured 30 feet by 34 feet and lacked one of its 15 stars.

While age and battle damage accounted for some of the loss, the star and other pieces were cut off the Flag as gifts from the Armisteads to a select group of "veterans, government officials and other honored citizens," the Smithsonian's history of the Flag explains.

As the major's daughter Georgiana Armistead Appleton observed, "had we given all that we have been importuned for, little would be left to show."

## Calls for Protection and Respect

Responding to public pressure after the Civil War, most states had enacted anti-desecration statutes by the early 20th century. The surge in patriotism during and after World War I spurred calls for federal protection.

In June 1923, the American Legion's Americanism Commission convened the first National Flag Conference in Washington, D.C. Sixty-eight patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations attended, including the Daughters of the American Revolution, Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus and American Library Association, said Marria Elliott Blinn, National Chair of DAR's Flag of the United States of America Committee.

The American Legion's American Commission published the U.S. Flag Code during its National Flag Conference on June 14, 1923. This date marked the anniversary of the Flag Act of 1777, which the



Second Continental Congress passed to approve the first U.S. Flag design.

The U.S. Flag Code provided a detailed set of guidelines distilled from many traditions regarding the Flag and its proper treatment. The

U.S. Flag Code became federal law in 1942 under Title 4, United States Code Chapter 1.

Unlike most laws, however, the Code largely lacked enforcement powers and was considered more of a guide to Flag etiquette than a set of mandatory rules. The 1960s political protests that included Flag burnings raised questions about the code's potential effect on freedom of expression.

In 1989 and 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Code's restrictions on political use of the Flag violated First and 14th Amendment protections of



Marria Blinn

free expression. The high court overturned existing federal and state anti-desecration laws and has struck down subsequent state efforts to punish verbal Flag disparagement or prevent disrespectful Flag display as

free speech violations, said Mrs. Blinn, a second-generation Daughter who was appointed National Chair in 2022 by President General Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright.

However, the Supreme Court did not address commercial use of the Flag, which involves different legal standards of freedom of expression. To date there have not been any challenges regarding this use.

"If any should arise, it seems likely that they would survive judicial scrutiny based on the rulings from the political expression cases," Mrs. Blinn said.



The committee also fields member inquiries about Flag etiquette. Top questions and their answers include:

**Question:** Are images of the Flag on paper plates, napkins, plastic tablecloths, greeting cards, cakes, cookies or candy wrappers appropriate?

**Answer:** The Flag Code states it is inappropriate to print or otherwise impress the Flag on anything that is designed for temporary use and discard.

**Q:** Before an American Flag retirement ceremony, should the Flag be cut into strips, or should the blue union be cut out of the Flag?

**A:** The Flag Code simply states you should "burn" a Flag and does not state that it should be cut into pieces.

**Q:** Is it acceptable to put writing or an image upon a Flag graphic or photo?

**A:** The Flag Code states the Flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing placed upon it.

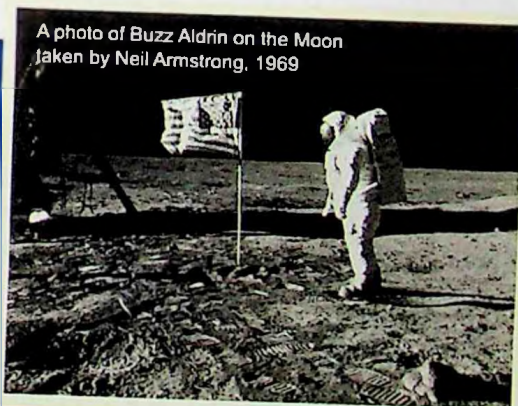
**Q:** Is it acceptable to wear the American Flag on clothing or purses?

**A:** The Flag Code states the Flag should never be embroidered on articles or used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. However, a patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen and policemen.

## To Boldly Go

To echo John Gillespie Magee Jr.'s poem "High Flight," our Flag has "slipped the surly bonds of Earth" and soared into outer space. On July 20, 1969, the world watched in awe as Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin planted the "Lunar Flag Assembly" on the moon.

Perhaps more amazing, the Voyager 1 and 2 probes launched in 1977 each carry a miniature American Flag as they sail into interstellar space. Voyager 1 is more than 14.8 billion miles from Earth, while Voyager 2 is almost 12.4 billion miles away; both are still studying space and reporting back to Earth.



A photo of Buzz Aldrin on the Moon taken by Neil Armstrong, 1969



## The Flag of the United States of America Committee

From its founding, DAR has worked vigorously for respectful treatment of the Flag. The Flag of the United States of America Committee was established on July 9, 1897, to promote a deep patriotic sense of respect for our Flag. In 1909, DAR presented this committee with these principal objectives: to keep the Flag flying and to protect it continuously under all conditions, as well as to educate citizens regarding its correct usage, Mrs. Blinn said.

Today's Flag Committee offers a variety of programs and materials to help Daughters and other concerned citizens with Flag etiquette, including:

- Flag Outreach Program with traveling speakers
- The quarterly *Flag Post* newsletter
- Francis Scott Key printable program
- Flag flying days calendar
- Flag minutes for chapter meetings
- Trivia game
- Flag bingo

The DAR Store carries Flags flown over Constitution Hall as well as Braille Flags, copies of the Flag Code, Flag certificates, posters, bookmarks and Pledge of Allegiance cards. 🇺🇸

**"Many civilians, civilian groups and organizations would like to show proper respect and usage of the American Flag. The Flag Code serves as a voluntary guide for this purpose."**

Marria Elliott Blinn  
National Chair  
The Flag of the United States of America Committee  
NSDAR



**O**n June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed an act establishing an official Flag for the new nation. The resolution stated: "Resolved, that the Flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." Red symbolizes hardiness and valor; white symbolizes purity and innocence; and blue stands for vigilance, perseverance and justice.

According to the National Flag Foundation, historians believe it was Francis Hopkinson, a New Jersey congressman and signer of the Declaration of Independence—and not Betsy Ross—who designed the first American Flag. (See our story on Hopkinson in the July/August 2022 issue of *American Spirit*.)

Since then, there have been 27 official versions of the American Flag. Over the years, Congress has changed the Flag's physical form multiple times as new states joined the Union.

After Vermont and Kentucky joined the Union in 1791 and 1792, respectively, the Flag Act of January 13, 1794, authorized adding two stars and two stripes, creating a Flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes. The act took effect on May 1, 1795, and remained in force for 23 years until 1818.

This was the only time in the Flag's history when it contained more than 13 stripes. "The Star-Spangled Banner" that flew over Fort McHenry, Maryland, during the War of 1812 is a 15-stripe Flag, although the design was outdated because there were 18 states by then.

The Flag Act of 1818 set forth the basic design for future Flags, with 13 stripes and one star for each state. New stars were to be added on July 4 following admission of a new state.

Our current 50-star Flag first flew on July 4, 1960, and is the most enduring design. The government held a design contest in 1958, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower picked the winner, designed by 17-year-old Robert G. Heft, of Lancaster, Ohio, from among more than 1,500 entries.



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## Sculptor of the DAR Founders Memorial Monument Shaped History

**Noted art patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney sculpted a rich legacy of her own works for DAR and many others**

By Emily McMackin Dye

**G**ertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, remembered as a passionate patron of American art and the visionary founder of New York City's Whitney Museum of American Art, was also an accomplished sculptor who broke the mold of what was expected of women of her era and social class. She forged an unconventional career as a female artist, exhibiting throughout the United States and Europe and experimenting with emerging art forms such as modernism.

Whitney, a member of the New York City DAR Chapter, received major commissions in her lifetime, but one of her

more notable creations is her commemorative sculpture of *The Founders of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, next to Constitution Hall. Dedicated in 1929 to the patriotic foresight of the NSDAR's four original founders, the heroic female figure, cut from Tennessee marble and clad in a flowing drapery, stands with outstretched arms, symbolizing American womanhood and the call to service at the heart of the organization.

"Mrs. Whitney has caught the spirit of our organization and with remarkable delicacy and skill has developed the wisdom and vision of those four remarkable women," President General Grace Brosseau wrote in a 1928 issue of the *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine* after previewing a clay model of the monument.

Sculpting gave Whitney immense fulfillment and a way to define herself apart from her wealth. The great-granddaughter of shipping and railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt, Whitney was born on January 9, 1875, in New York City into one of the wealthiest and most famous families in America. As a child of Cornelius Vanderbilt II and Alice Claypoole Gwynne Vanderbilt, she grew up in Gilded Age privilege with her future as a socialite mapped out from birth. But Whitney also had a love of art that began when she attended the exclusive Brearley School for girls. From an early age, she sketched, wrote stories and kept journals detailing her travels and the people she met.

In 1896, she married sportsman and thoroughbred horse breeder Harry Payne Whitney, the son of a wealthy attorney and the grandson of a Standard Oil executive. A trip to Europe in 1901 reinvigorated her passion for art and inspired her to pursue sculpting. She submitted her work to an exposition later that year under a pseudonym and began studying under renowned sculptors such as Hendrik Christian Andersen and James Earle Fraser while taking classes at the Art Students League of New York. She even traveled to Paris to study with Irish-American sculptor Andrew O'Connor as well as French sculptor Auguste Rodin, whose expressive style influenced her work.

### Escaping Into Art

Art became both an escape and a coping mechanism for Whitney as she struggled with an unhappy marriage and postpartum depression after the birth of her third child. She described her sculptures as "emotions gouged from clay." She



devoted herself to perfecting her craft, opening a studio in New York's Greenwich Village in 1907 and winning a prize the next year for a sculpture. Commissions soon followed. She sculpted the Aztec Fountain for the patio of the Pan American Building in Washington, D.C., in 1912, and won an open competition for her design of a memorial to *Titanic* victims, unveiled in 1931 in a park on the Potomac River. A fountain she designed for the new Arlington Hotel in Washington, D.C., and won honorable mention at the Paris Salon in 1913 and a bronze medal at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.

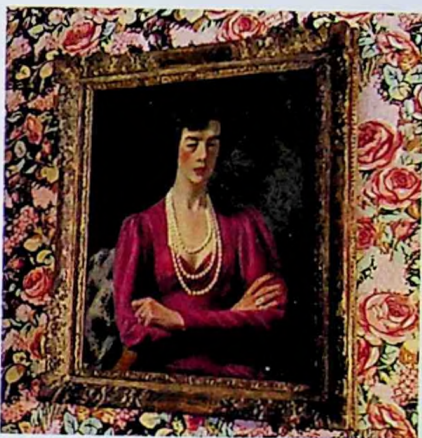
Few took her burgeoning career seriously at first. Her mother was horrified at the prospect of her depicting nudes, and her husband was annoyed by her commitment to art. Her social status also complicated her artistic ambitions. She was criticized for accepting commissions when other artists needed jobs more than she and blamed for undercutting the market when she was not paid. Nonetheless, Whitney persisted in honing her skills and expanding her body of work, showing her art in cities from Newport, Rhode Island, to San Francisco and later in Europe.

Whitney found respect and camaraderie among progressive artists in the Greenwich Village community whose modernist style was disregarded by museums and more traditional institutions. She bought many of their works, supported them financially and in 1914 opened the Whitney Studio in a building next to her Greenwich Village work studio to provide them with a space to exhibit their works. Her patronage allowed her to combine her passion for art and philanthropy and helped launch the careers of up-and-coming artists such as Robert Henri, William Glackens, John Sloan, George Luks and Arthur B. Davies, all of whom were part of the Ashcan School, a group of painters known for depicting the realities of urban life. In 1918, she founded the Whitney Studio Club, which hosted exhibitions and lectures and offered social and recreational space for aspiring artists, including women and African-American artists.

Whitney also held many charity exhibitions for causes close to her heart. Her "50-50 Art Sale" split profits evenly between artists and the American Hospital of Paris, which tended to soldiers wounded in World War I. Proceeds of an



exhibition by children attending the Greenwich House School were donated to the child artists and the settlement house. In hopes of gaining international exposure for American artists, she planned an overseas exhibition of contemporary American art that traveled to Paris and other European cities in 1920-1921. She also sponsored traveling exhibitions along the East Coast, underwrote an arts magazine and aided arts institutions that needed funding.



A portrait of Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney hangs in the Breakers Mansion in Newport, Rhode Island.

## Wartime Work and Monuments

Meanwhile, Whitney continued to blossom as a sculptor. Though much of her work was traditional and grand in scale, she was increasingly influenced by the modernist artists she admired and the grim reality of World War I. The war memorials she created during this time, including a bas-relief panel for New York City's Victory Arch in Madison Square and the Washington Heights-Inwood War Memorial in Upper Manhattan, depict severely wounded doughboys leaning on their comrades. Whitney, who actively participated in relief efforts during the war, gleaned these bleak scenes from firsthand experience. She established and supported a field hospital behind the battle lines in Juilly, France, where she spent months volunteering. What she saw there inspired her to create a series of small bronze sculptures of soldiers based on battle scenes, which were exhibited in an "Impressions of the War" show at the Whitney Studio and the Art Institute of Chicago. Her reputation for these poignant works led to a commission in 1924 to create a monument commemorating the 1917 landing of the American Expeditionary Force in France. Towering 60 feet above the rocky shoreline of



## ★ AMERICAN ARTISANS ★

Saint-Nazaire on a granite pedestal, her sculpture of a bronze soldier stands on the outstretched wings of an eagle, his uniform torn and a crusader sword held high in his right hand.

Whitney went on to create many other commissioned works over the next several decades, including a lively sculpture of Buffalo Bill, unveiled in 1924 in Cody, Wyoming; an abstract limestone statue of Christopher Columbus, presented to Spain as a gift from America and dedicated in 1929 in the port city of Huelva near the spot where the explorer embarked on his 1492 voyage; a fantastical interpretation of "The Spirit of Flight" for the 1939–1940 New York World's Fair; and a monument to Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch governor of New Netherland, placed in New York City's Stuyvesant Square in 1941.



Sculptures and photographs on display in Whitney's bedroom at The Breakers, the Vanderbilt family's summer mansion in Newport, Rhode Island

any more works by American artists. Undeterred, Whitney decided to open her own museum to focus exclusively on American art and provide American artists with a plat-

form for showing and selling their work. In 1930, she founded the Whitney Museum of American Art, using her fortune as well as money from her late husband's estate to fund the venture. The museum, originally on West Eighth Street near Fifth Avenue, opened on November 18, 1931, in the throes of The Great Depression, with nearly 4,000 people attending.

With her stature as an artist and art patron firmly established, Whitney focused on pursuing another lifelong interest during the last decade of her life: creative writing. She wrote numerous short stories and novels, publishing one of her novels, *Walking the Dusk*, under the pseudonym L.J. Webb in 1932. She spent her remaining years writing, sculpting and doing philanthropic work. After suffering from a bacterial disease, she died on April 18, 1942, leaving much of her estate to continue the work of the Whitney Museum, which now boasts more than 25,000 works by thousands of American artists.

Today her sculptures can still be viewed in art museums throughout the U.S. and Europe, but her greatest legacy is the doors she opened for women artists as well as all American artists with a dream of expressing their ideas on a global stage. 🌐

### A Lasting Legacy

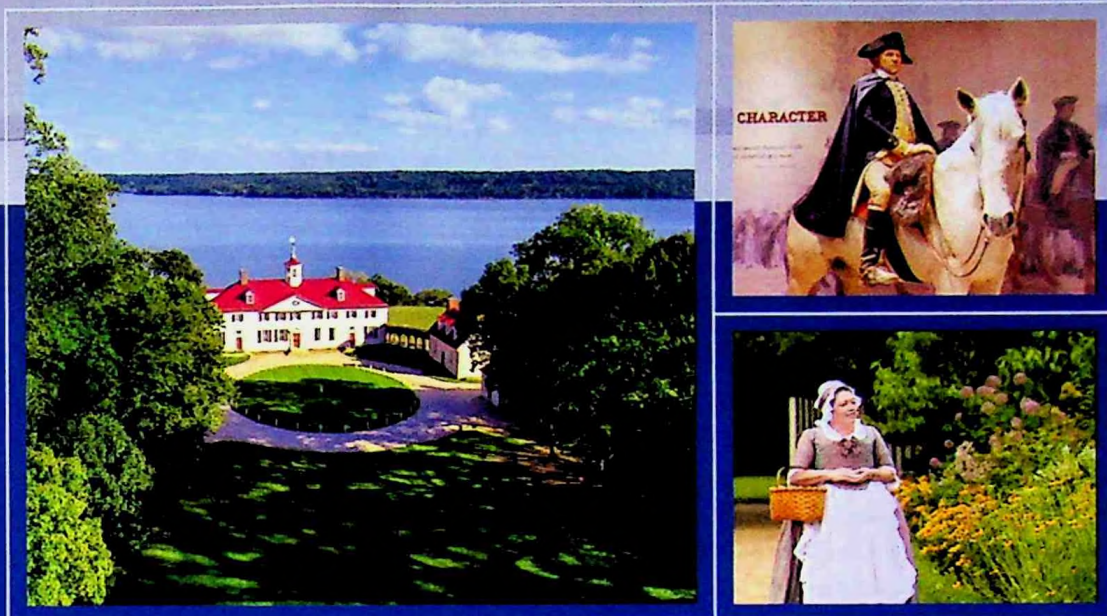
Whitney's patronage of American art continued to grow as well. Though she disbanded the Whitney Studio Club in 1928, believing its goal of creating more opportunities for young artists had been accomplished, she replaced it with the Whitney Studio Galleries, which exhibited work by contemporary American artists and was open daily to the public for free.

By this time, Whitney had collected more than 500 pieces of modernist art, most of which languished unseen in storage. She felt strongly that these works and the artists who created them deserved more recognition, so she offered to donate her entire collection, along with a \$5 million endowment, to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET). The museum director declined her offer, not wanting to add



Two museums bear Whitney's name: the Whitney Museum of American Art, in the Meatpacking District and West Village neighborhoods of Manhattan; and the Whitney Gallery of Western Art (now known as the Whitney Western Art Museum), established in Cody, Wyoming, in 1959 by Whitney's son, Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney.





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## Constitution Gardens: 'Living Legacy Tribute' Being Redesigned for 2026

By Elizabeth Mariano Mubarek

**Constitution Gardens** lies in the shadow of the Washington Monument and near other quintessentially American structures, including the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The 50-acre park within the National Mall in Washington, D.C., has a distinctive history. The land occupied by the Gardens was originally submerged beneath the Potomac River, which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged in the late 1800s to create Potomac Park. During World War I, the grounds filled with temporary office spaces for the Department of Munitions and the United States Navy. In 1971, those buildings were demolished, and work began to convert the land into Constitution Gardens in time for the nation's Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

The park was designed as an oasis with a small, man-made lake; meandering paths; and enchanting vegetation. In July 1984, "Signers Island" was created in the center of the lake, accessed by a small wooden footbridge. The memorial features granite blocks carved with the signatures, names, hometowns and occupations of the Declaration of Independence's 56 signers.

In 1986, 10 years after the Gardens' dedication, President Ronald Reagan offered a presidential designation proclaiming the gardens "a living legacy tribute" to the Constitution.

However, the hurried creation of the original Constitution Gardens has become problematic. "They were in a rush to get this done for 1976," said Julie Moore, Vice President of Communications for the Trust for the National Mall, which works with the National Park Service (NPS) to bring private philanthropy and project expertise to plan and execute projects on the Mall. "There is a need now to make it a more sustainable and beneficial park space in the nation's capital."

"We are working to raise critical private funding to help create a vibrant, engaging and sustainable space at this historic location on the National Mall. This project is a central element of our work with NPS to prepare the National Mall for America's 250th in 2026," said Catherine Townsend, President



and CEO of the Trust and member of the Capitol DAR Chapter in Washington, D.C.

In 2011, a contest selected designers for the Gardens. One of the first elements of the project was redesigning the Lockkeeper's House, now the gateway to the National Mall. In 2018, the Trust moved the tiny house away from a busy street to a landscaped plaza and restored the entire building, which now serves as an information center featuring an immersive film.

Now, the Trust and NPS will revitalize the plaza and lake area. They also plan to improve the footbridge to Signers Island. There, the Trust is working to "elevate and honor" the bravery of these 56 men central to the establishment of our nation. In 2022, the DAR presented a donation to the Trust for the National Mall to help upgrade the Memorial, and, over the past year, Daughters have sent \$56 checks to support the renovations.

"The Trust is incredibly grateful to the DAR for their gifts to help upgrade the Memorial to the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence in time for America's 250th Anniversary in 2026," Ms. Townsend said. "The memorial island is one of the most meaningful features of the restoration project, and once complete will provide millions of visitors a place for learning, reflection and engagement around our nation's history and the stories and moments yet to be told."

Once again, there is a deadline to complete the park work before a national commemorative event: the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026. "The National Mall will take center stage for that celebration, so we are working with the Park Service to create a plan for both restoration and educational programming and new content that we can have ready by 2026 for a full year celebration. This project is really a marquee piece of that," Moore said. The goal is to offer Constitution Gardens as a vibrant urban park, a showcase of sustainability and a welcoming haven and respite for all. Learn more at [www.nationalmall.org](http://www.nationalmall.org).



# 'Here We Mark the Price of Freedom'

## World War II Memorial Is A Place to Reflect

By Megan Hamby

The National World War II Memorial, at the east end of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on the National Mall, honors the 16 million individuals who served in the U.S. armed forces, the more than 400,000 who died and all who supported the war effort at home.



In December 1987, U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur introduced legislation to establish a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was not until May 1993, however, that President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 103-32 to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), an independent federal agency created in 1923, to establish the Memorial. President Clinton appointed 12 individuals to the Memorial Advisory Board (MAB) to advise the ABMC and to solicit donations to support the construction of the Memorial.

In January 1995, the ABMC and MAB held a site selection session, which was attended by representatives of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the National Park Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Together, the organizations identified seven potential sites for the Memorial. Later that year, the Rainbow Pool on the National Mall was selected and approved as the site. In November 1995, President Clinton dedicated the site as the future location of the World War II Memorial.

A nationwide competition was held in 1996 to choose a designer for the

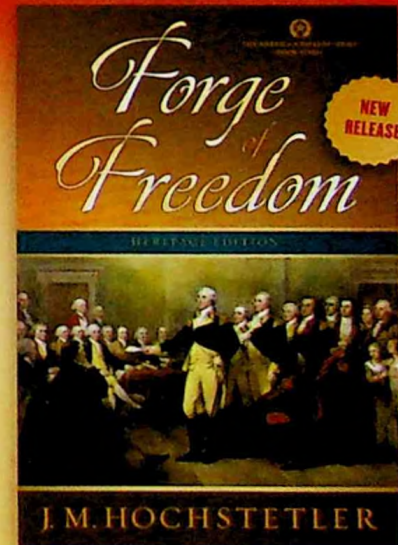
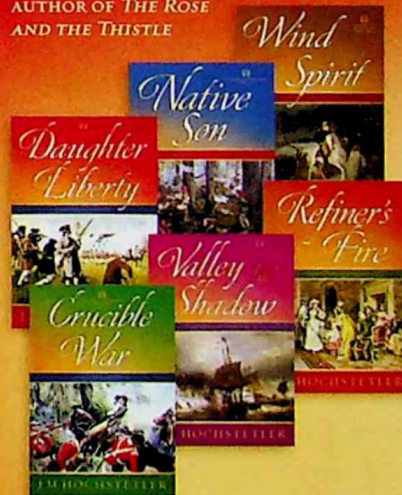


Memorial. More than 400 entries were reviewed, and the evaluating team unanimously chose the Leo A. Daly design firm, with Friedrich St. Florian as the lead design architect.

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J. M. Hochstetler is a member of the William Tuffa Chapter of DAR





The Memorial was largely funded by private donations. Frederick W. Smith, President and CEO of FedEx Corporation, and Senator Bob Dole, a World War II veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, spearheaded fundraising campaigns to build the Memorial, raising more than \$195 million in cash and pledges. Celebrities and journalists such as Tom Hanks and Tom Brokaw also participated in fundraising efforts. In 2001, under the leadership of President General Linda Tinker Watkins, the DAR donated nearly half a million dollars.

On April 29, 2004, the National World War II Memorial opened to the public,

and a formal dedication, which drew 150,000 people, was held a month later on May 29. In November 2004, the ABMC transferred responsibility of operations and maintenance to the National Park Service.

Today, more than 5 million people visit the Memorial every year, remembering and honoring the Americans who served and died.

"The Memorial is a celebration of the WWII generation and the American spirit of unity during that time; but it is also a solemn place of commemoration in memory of those who gave their lives for a cause greater than self," said

Holly Rotondi, Executive Director of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial.

The memorial features two arches; 56 pillars arranged in a semicircle around the plaza representing all 50 U.S. states as well as the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and a 49-foot freedom wall located on the west side of the plaza. The freedom wall contains 4,048 gold stars, each representing 100 Americans who died in the war. In front of the wall is the message, "Here we mark the price of freedom." ☺

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**Visit [kdsdar.org](http://kdsdar.org) for more information.**

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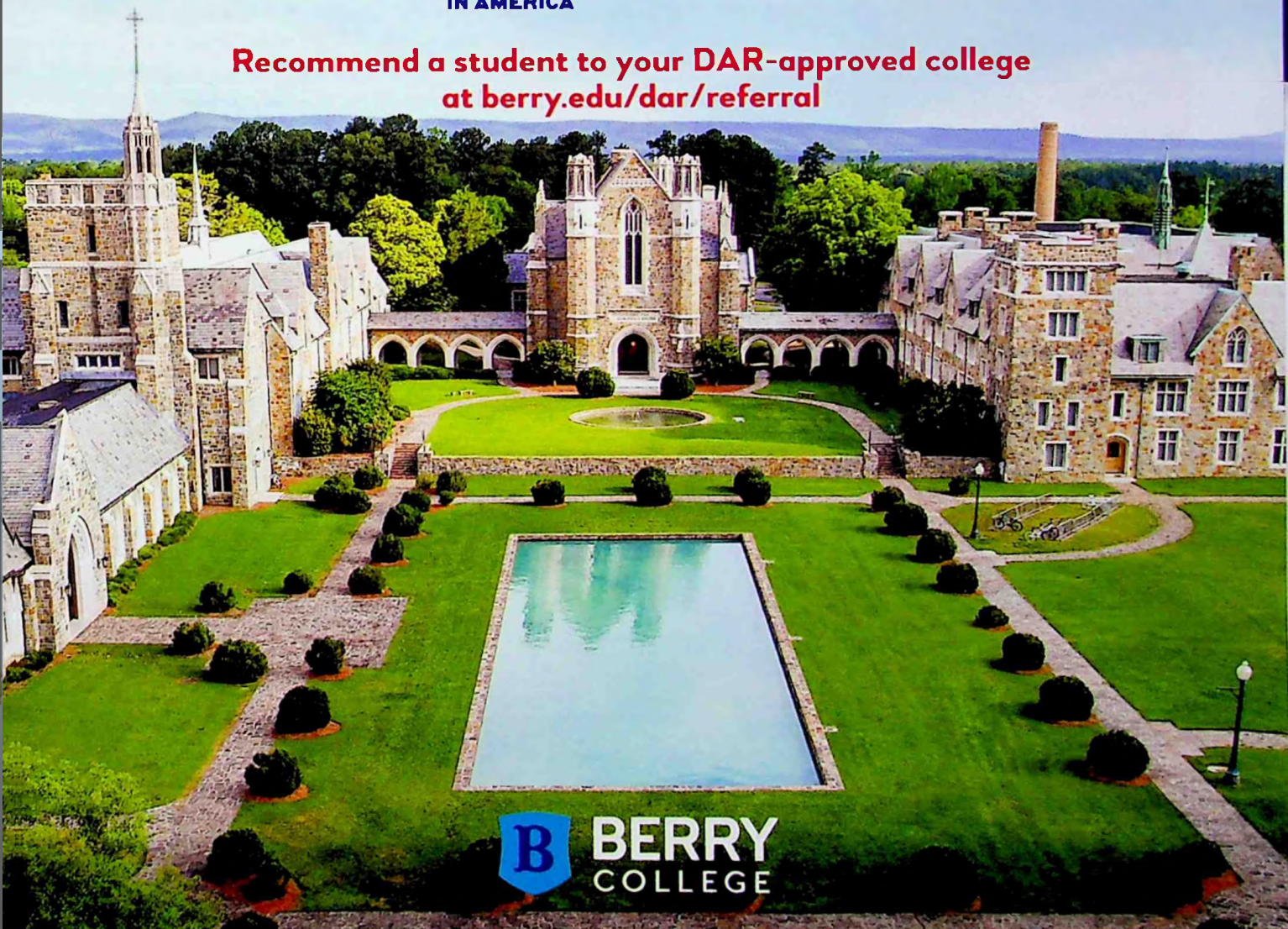


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# GENEALOGY TIDBITS

## Registrars Learn New Skills in Free Online Course

**Are you a new or current Chapter or State Registrar?** If so, you can sign up for the free online Registrar Training Course, offered by the DAR Genealogy department.

**T**he Registrar Training Course is a 12-lesson course open to all current and incoming State and Chapter Registrars. It is a compilation of the most important lessons from the first three Genealogical Education Program (GEP) courses, condensed to allow new and current Registrars to learn the necessary procedures and requirements for preparing and submitting DAR Applications and Supplemental Applications.

"Registrars are responsible for assisting prospective members with their Applications, signing off on Applications for a new member and serving as the record keeper for changes in chapter membership," said DAR staff genealogist and GEP Coordinator Danielle Teyssier. "The Registrar Training Course is a fantastic way for new Registrars to learn what is expected of them in their role."

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Question  
01/07

As Chapter Registrar, select all the types of records you should retain. Select all that apply.

☐ Copies of all analyses and service studies sent with each application and supplemental submitted with your chapter

☐ Copies of the verified applications and supplemental applications of each member of your chapter

☐ Copies of all AIR letters sent to members of your chapter

☐ Copies of the new member applications and member supplementals that are pending

Submit

In this course, Registrars will learn how to analyze the lineage documentation that potential members have collected; identify acceptable types and sources of Revolutionary War service; and prepare the Application and documentation according to current DAR procedures for the submission of Applications and Supplemental Applications.

Registrars have a year to complete the course, but most complete it quickly, Teyssier said. To enroll in the course, email Danielle Teyssier at [onlineclass@dar.org](mailto:onlineclass@dar.org) and include your name, your National Number, and a list of any GEP classes you have already completed. 📧

Learn  
More!

- Visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org), and sign in as a member.
- Click on "Genealogy" at the top of the page.
- Under "Applications and Supplementals," click on "Genealogy Education Programs (GEP)."



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## Quick Tip:

If it has been five years or more since you completed your beneficiary forms, you may want to take a moment to review them to be sure that they are still in line with your wishes.

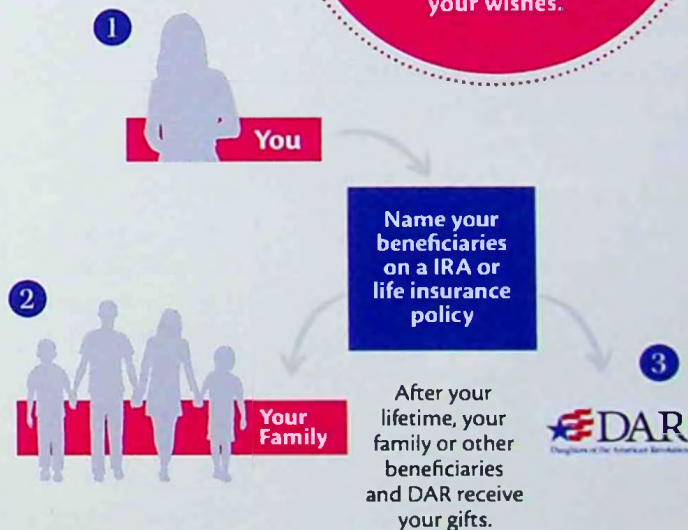
## Want a fast, easy and painless way to include DAR in your estate plan?

Consider naming DAR as a beneficiary on a new or existing life insurance policy or retirement account.

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*Leave a Patriotic Legacy.*





## Learn the Building Blocks of Genealogical Research

### DAR's GEP 1 Course Serves as an Introduction to Research Skills

**Did you know** that the DAR offers courses to help members stay updated on documentation standards for DAR Applications? Available to all members, Genealogical Education Program (GEP) courses teach skills needed to complete Applications.

GEP 1, "Introduction to Genealogy Research for DAR Applications," helps members learn how to locate genealogical documents, identify specific pieces of genealogical evidence and evaluate evidence concerning the criteria required for DAR Applications.

The course divides into seven lessons that help Daughters "learn the building

blocks of genealogical research," said Danielle Teyssier, a DAR staff genealogist and the GEP Coordinator. The lessons are:

- Evaluation of Evidence
- Vital Records
- Census Records
- State and Local Records
- Federal Records
- Family and Parochial Records
- DAR Records

Lessons consist of videos, handouts, transcripts and quizzes. To progress through the course, you must achieve a passing score on a quiz for each lesson, and five attempts are allowed for each quiz.

Although the course is most helpful to new members, anyone can benefit from it—especially those interested in genealogy, Teyssier said. An added benefit is the pin offered for completing the course.

Learn More!

### Learn more about GEP courses!

- Visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org), and sign in as a member.
- Click on "Genealogy" at the top of the page.
- Under "Applications and Supplementals," click on "Genealogy Education Programs (GEP)."

The registration fee of \$75 allows 90 days of access to the course. To sign up, follow these instructions:

- Register for the Bridge learning platform at [https://selfbridgestration.custom-bridgeapp.com/sign\\_up/gep](https://selfbridgestration.custom-bridgeapp.com/sign_up/gep).
- After registering for the Bridge app, visit <https://nsdar.myshopify.com> and create an account using the same email address used for Bridge.
- Click on "GEP 1: Introduction to Genealogical Research for DAR Applications" and "Add to Cart."
- Once you have purchased your course, allow up to 10 minutes for it to appear on your My Learning page on the Bridge platform. 📱

*Note From the Editor:* In the March/April 2023 issue of *American Spirit*, we mistakenly referred to the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School as the Kate Duncan School. We apologize for any confusion.



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# Helping Teachers Honor the American Revolution

Earlier this year, 20 teachers and administrators were awarded grants to be used for new projects and initiatives that focus on the theme "Stars and Stripes Forever: The Enduring Legacy of the American Revolution."

The Community Classroom Committee sponsors this new DAR American Revolution Legacy Grant. The grants awarded in early May 2023 must be used during the 2023–2024 school year for projects that help celebrate and remember the American Revolution. Project ideas include a school musical, a grade-level field trip to a museum, a schoolwide history club, and hosting a campus history bee



Jeannie Deakne

or a district-wide traveling American Revolution exhibit.

Applications for the 2024–2025 school year will open in January 2024. "We encourage chapters to start promoting this grant in their communities now," said Jeannie Deakne, National Chair of the Community Classroom Committee. "Each chapter can endorse one candidate per year. The chapter is responsible for assisting the nominee with the application and submitting it to the committee for evaluation."

The committee hopes that the grants will spark new interest in the American Revolution. "This grant establishes

Learn More!

- Go to [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org), and sign in as a member.
- Click "Committees" and then "Community Classroom."
- Find the gray box titled "Community Classroom" on the right-hand side of the page. Click "DAR American Revolution Legacy Grant Program" in this gray box for more information about the program.

a connection to America's 250th Anniversary," Mrs. Deakne said. "I'm excited for the role it will play in helping people who have not had prior opportunities to think about the American Revolution really feel like their history as an American is important and connected to the events of 1776." 🇺🇸

## Spread the Sparkle

In March, the Membership Committee launched a new initiative, "Spread the Sparkle," to attract and reinstate four or more members by the end of 2023.

"We encourage every chapter to participate in this recruitment initiative," said Membership Committee National Chair Laura Druker. "This is an opportunity to share your sparkle and what you love about DAR membership."

Daughters may contact family members, friends and coworkers. Chapters may seek ways to sparkle in their communities, such as through community



Laura Druker

or state fair booths, farmers markets and historical society events, Mrs. Druker said.

Spread the Sparkle runs until the Board of Management meeting on December 5, 2023. "Start recruiting new people now," Mrs. Druker suggested. Applications must be mailed early to allow enough review time to meet the initiative's deadline. Applications with issues may not be verified by this deadline. To count as a reinstated member, the member must have dropped at least two years ago.

The 133rd Continental Congress in 2024, Membership Committee's Webpage, and the DOC will recognize

Learn More!

- Go to [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org), and sign in as a member.
- Click "Committees" and then "Membership."
- Find the gray box titled "Membership" on the right-hand side of the page. Click "Membership Initiatives" in this gray box for information about the "Spread the Sparkle Challenge."

all chapters meeting the Spread the Sparkle goal. A certificate template will be available for chapters to recognize Daughters who recruited a new member during this initiative. 🇺🇸



# Pass the Torch This Memorial Day

**This Memorial Day**, the Conservation Committee is asking Daughters to join a national campaign to observe the day with a time of remembrance.

"Operation Pass the Torch" is the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier's national campaign to "reclaim Memorial Day for the noble and sacred reason for which it was

intended—to honor those who died in service to our nation."

The DAR first partnered with the Society of the Honor Guard to plant Never Forget Gardens,

said Lynne Stallcop, National Chair of the Conservation Committee. (Read more about Never Forget Gardens on page 22.)

"It was because of that initiative's success and our partnership with the Honor Guard that they came to DAR again," Mrs. Stallcop said. "We are a large society and, as the Honor Guard said, we get things done. We're honored to help promote this campaign."

Daughters are encouraged to play a reading of "In Arlington," a poem written by Bob Martin as a tribute to the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 2022 (visit [www.vimeo.com/702596319](http://www.vimeo.com/702596319) for "In Arlington"). In addition, at 3 p.m., Daughters are encouraged to play "Journey Home," an original score written by Dr. Sara Corry and recorded by the United States Army Band (visit [https://youtu.be/Fmt29\\_YsS28](https://youtu.be/Fmt29_YsS28) for "Journey Home").

Participation can be on your own or as part of an event, Mrs. Stallcop said. "You can listen to the poem and 'Journey Home' on your own or as part of a more

organized commemoration. This is, most importantly, a way to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom," she said. 🇺🇸

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# Turn Your Pollinator Garden Into a Never Forget Garden

Did you know that nearly three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and 35% of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce? Consider planting your own pollinator garden this year—one with a twofold purpose.

Not only will you be helping the environment, but you can also make it a Never Forget Garden to honor those who have served in the U.S. military.

The DAR supports the Never Forget Garden, an initiative started in 2018 by the Society of the Honor

Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"Any garden can be turned into a Never Forget Garden," said Lynne Stallcop, National Chair of the DAR Conservation Committee. "The main components are an American Flag; a Never Forget Garden marker; the incorporation of a white rose; and a bench, chair or seat."

Engravements on the Never Forget Garden marker read, "This garden is a living tribute to all of America's veterans and their families. In silence and respect, this is a place to remember why millions of Americans have fought and died for our liberty and



## THE BEE-FRIENDLY GARDEN



Common Poppy  
*Papaver rhoeas*  
Zones 3-10



Bee Balm  
*Monarda species*  
Zones 4-9



Zinnia  
*Zinnia species*  
Annual (self-seeding)



Sedum  
*Sedum species*  
Zones 3-10



Joe Pye Weed  
*Eupatorium purpureum*  
Zones 3-9



Purple Coneflower  
*Echinacea purpurea*  
Zones 3-8



Nasturtium  
*Tropaeolum majus*  
Annual



Marigolds  
*Tagetes species*  
Annual



Calendula  
*Calendula officinalis*  
Annual



Sunflowers  
*Helianthus species*  
Annual



Black Eyed Susan  
*Rudbeckia species*  
Zones 3-10



Goldenrod  
*Solidago species*  
Zones 3-10



Borage  
*Borago officinalis*  
Annual



Crape Hyacinth (bulb)  
*Muscari americanum*  
Zones 4-8



Globe Thistle  
*Echinops species*  
Zones 3-9



Love in a Mist  
*Nigella damascena*  
Annual



Viper's bugloss  
*Echium vulgare*  
Zones 3-8, biennial



Veronica  
*Veronica species*  
Zones 4-8



Mountain bluet  
*Centaurea montana*  
Zones 3-9



Lavender  
*Lavandula angustifolia*  
Zones 5-8



Aster  
*Aster species*  
Zones 4-9



Catmint  
*Nepeta x faassenii*  
Zones 3-8



Crocus  
*Crocus species*  
Zones 3-8



Anise Hyssop  
*Agastache foeniculum*  
Zones 4-8





our freedom. Here we renew our promise to fulfill America's sacred duty to never forget. Here we renew our mutual pledge to support them with 'our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.'" The marker borrows the quote at the end from the Declaration of Independence, in which the signers pledged "to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."


Mrs. Stallcop noted that the garden could be in a private yard or public space (with the appropriate permission). However, she said, "The location does not matter. What truly matters is remembrance."

"The focus of the garden should be remembering and honoring those who have served," she said. "Simply never forgetting."

Creation of Never Forget Gardens will be included on DAR Chapter Master Reports in 2024. 🌻

To learn more, visit the Conservation Committee Webpage at [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)




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# Ideas, Ideas, Ideas!

Engage in Our Collective DAR Mission of  
Historic Preservation, Education and Patriotism

## 'Our Hearts Sparkle for Veterans' Project a Huge Success

**Businesses in downtown Fredericksburg, Virginia,** were asked to showcase a veteran in their storefront windows for three weeks in February. The response was overwhelming, with 52 businesses agreeing to create displays for their windows. These displays included a "Sparkle" sign provided by the Washington-Lewis DAR Chapter, as well as photographs, uniforms, personal memorabilia and a short biography of their chosen veteran. The chapter honored a total of 122 veterans in storefront displays. ★



## Distributing Books in Preparation for Constitution Week

**Marjorie Ferrer** and other members of the Henry Morrison Flagler DAR Chapter in Gulf Stream, Florida, delivered 10,510 Constitution books, which can be purchased through the DAR Store, to ninth grade students in Palm Beach, Florida. "This is the Class of 2026—when America turns 250," Ms. Ferrer said. "These are students who will be attending college and entering the military and workforce. I believe they need to know the laws of our country by that time!" ★



## Inspirational Project Ideas to Support Members of Our Active Military

**New Hampshire State Regent Kay Sternenberg** assisted with Operation Care for Troops in Nashua, New Hampshire. Volunteers enjoyed folding and putting together packets with letters for the troops, comic books and puzzles. Want to do something similar? Visit the DAR Project Patriot Committee Webpage for project ideas. ★

Learn  
More!



- Visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org), and sign in as a member.
- Click on "Committees" and then "DAR Project Patriot."
- Click on "What You Can Do" in the gray box on the right.
- Also review "Additional Projects" in the same gray box.



# Continental Congress Packing List

## What to Wear and Bring to the 132nd Continental Congress

**Packing for Continental Congress** can be intimidating—even for Daughters who have attended for years. Packing all the essentials in just a couple of suitcases is not the easiest task, which is why Mary Bendix, an administrator for the What to Wear Daughters! private Facebook page, offers tips on what to wear and bring to Washington, D.C.

"Many women have a tendency to overpack because they're nervous about having the appropriate items or proper clothing," Mrs. Bendix said. "But less is truly more. Pick out a general color scheme for the week and coordinate items so you're not overpacking."

Use this guide, provided by Mrs. Bendix and other administrators of the What to Wear Daughters! Facebook page, when you are packing for your journey to the nation's capital. ★



### Suitcase

**Formal gowns or cocktail attire.** Four evening events call for formal or cocktail attire, but that does not mean you have to bring four evening gowns, Mrs. Bendix said. She recommended considering options such as a long ball gown skirt or dressy pants to pair with different silk blouses or sparkly tops.

**Casual business attire.** You will need casual business attire each day you attend business sessions. Consider mixing and matching dresses with suit jackets to reduce the number of clothes in your suitcase.

**Casual clothes.** Pack comfortable clothes for sightseeing in Washington, D.C.—remember, it gets hot in June!

**Shoes.** Comfort is key—you will be doing a lot of standing and walking. "Try to stick to three pairs of shoes—a pair to wear with formalwear, a pair for business attire and a pair of comfortable walking shoes," Mrs. Bendix said. Her most important piece of advice is to wear each pair of shoes a few times before traveling to break them in and avoid blisters.

**White gloves.** Gloves are needed for events with receiving lines. Keep a pair handy just in case.

**Wrap or sweater.** Constitution Hall tends to be cold, so bring along a lightweight wrap or sweater to brave the chill.

*Remember, except for gloves, white clothing is reserved for Pages. Wearing white to evening or daytime events is highly discouraged.*



### Toiletry Bag

**Stain removers.** Pack travel-size stain removers, such as Tide To Go Pens or Shout wipes, for quick and easy fixes.

**Fashion tape.** Fashion tape can help secure dress necklines or keep straps in place. It is also helpful for quick hemming and other last-minute wardrobe fixes.

**Safety pins and earring guards.** Safety pins and plastic earring guards can help secure pins on your Insignia.

**Mini sewing kit.** In case pins need reattaching to your Insignia, ensure your sewing kit has a miniature pair of scissors and a thimble.

**Heat tools.** If sharing a room with other Daughters, coordinate bringing items such as an extra hair dryer (the hotel room will have one), a portable clothes steamer and other heat tools.



### In Your Purse & Miscellaneous Items

- ✓ DAR name tag
- ✓ Photo identification
- ✓ Pens
- ✓ Charging devices
- ✓ Snacks
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Mini first-aid kit
- ✓ Extra clothes hangers
- ✓ Cash  
Bring small bills for tips and cab fare.





★ TRAVEL LOG ★

# Power Trip:

## A Goal-Oriented Getaway to the Nation's Capital

By Courtney Peter



The U.S. Capitol



Cherry blossom trees along the Potomac

**B**uilt to suit a new nation in need of a capital city, Washington, D.C., possessed a sense of purpose from the start. Throughout the transformation from undeveloped swamp into the epicenter of American democracy, this mission-driven mindset has served the city well.

Visitors seem to share it, too. Drawn to the District with a specific itinerary in mind, they come to visit monuments and memorials, tour hallowed halls of government, explore massive museum collections, see cherry blossom trees burst into bloom—and attend DAR Continental Congress, the National Society's weeklong annual conference.

### Capital Project

Mindful of balancing Northern and Southern interests when choosing a permanent capital, the United States Congress passed the Residence Act of 1790, which established a federal

city along the Potomac River on land ceded by Maryland and Virginia and set a 10-year timetable for the federal government's relocation. President George Washington pinpointed the city's specific site at the confluence of the Potomac and East Bank (now called Anacostia) Rivers, between Georgetown, at the time part of Maryland, and Alexandria, Virginia.

He also chose French architect and Revolutionary War veteran Pierre Charles L'Enfant to design the city plan. L'Enfant drew up a city grid radiating from the Capitol, with wide avenues, plenty of parks and a grand promenade. Realizing a vision so majestic takes time and money, especially when starting from scratch. Just as the city began to take shape, the British set it aflame during the War of 1812, turning years of progress into ash overnight.

During the Civil War, the Union Army made capital fortification a priority, and the influx of military personnel spurred development. Another contributing factor was the growing population of free African-Americans, including people freed by the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862 and the Emancipation Proclamation, which followed nearly nine months later.

GETTY IMAGES



By the 20th century, the District had grown in size, stature and population to the extent that focus shifted from development to beautification. Consequently, Washington, D.C., as we know it today, came into being. Influenced by the City Beautiful movement and the popularity of Beaux-Arts architecture, the Senate Park Commission advocated for a recommitment to L'Enfant's vision in the 1902 McMillan Plan.

In 1909, First Lady Helen Taft agreed to accept the city of Tokyo's donation of 2,000 Japanese flowering cherry trees to be planted along the Potomac waterfront. Flora Patterson, a longtime United States Department of Agriculture employee who was a pioneering mycologist and a Constitution DAR Chapter member, was part of the inspection team that determined the initial shipment of trees was diseased and had to be destroyed. After a second healthy shipment arrived in 1912, the roots of the now-iconic National Cherry Blossom Festival took hold.

### Through a DAR Lens

"I love the history you find yourself surrounded with in Washington," said DCDAR State Regent Beth Hicks, who was a political appointee at the U.S. Department of Labor. "I still get excited driving around Washington and seeing the monuments."

During the 132nd Continental Congress, set for June 28–July 2 this year, DAR members will experience the capital city's energy while traveling between DAR Headquarters and the JW Marriott Washington, DC, the official conference hotel. Between the two is President's Park, anchored by the White House, with the Ellipse to the south and Lafayette Park to the north. Two statues in Lafayette Park honor Frenchmen whose Revolutionary War contributions earned Americans' unending gratitude: the Marquis de Lafayette, the nobleman turned soldier who secured French support for the Patriots, then fought alongside them (see right); and Comte de Rochambeau, who commanded the French forces sent to the Continental Army's aid.

Nearby at 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. sits the Old Post Office Tower. Built in the 1890s in the Romanesque Revival style, it is the city's second-tallest building, topped only by the Washington Monument. By affording free access to an observation deck 270 feet above street level with no reservations necessary, the Old Post



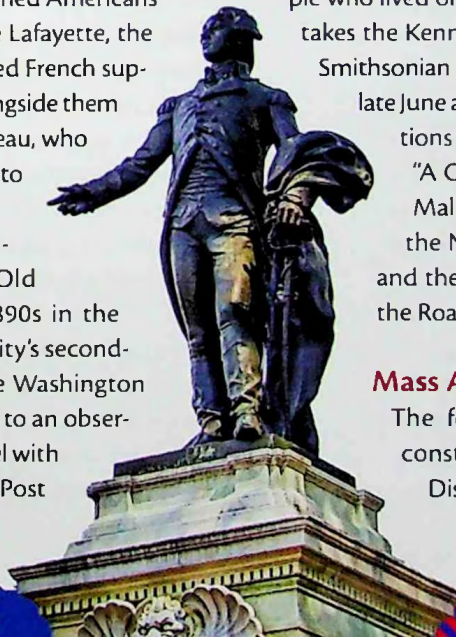
Office offers sightseers greater flexibility than the famed obelisk, for views just as spectacular.

Visiting Daughters can also check out a recent addition to historic Congressional Cemetery in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. There, on April 21, 2023, DAR President General Pamela Rouse Wright joined Mrs. Hicks and DCDAR members in unveiling an America 250! Patriot Marker at the gravesite of Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence who later became vice president. Among the nearly 70,000 interred at the 35-acre burial ground are William Thornton and Robert Mills, the respective designers of the Capitol and the Washington Monument; Belva Lockwood, the first woman admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar; and dozens of members of the U.S. Congress.

Across the District, historic sites and cultural experiences await DAR members looking to enrich an already packed Congress itinerary. Tudor Place showcases the stories of six generations of descendants of Martha Washington and the enslaved people who lived on-site. The Tony Award-winning musical *1776* takes the Kennedy Center stage from June 27–July 16. The Smithsonian Folklife Festival enlivens the National Mall in late June and early July. And Independence Day celebrations include the National Symphony Orchestra's "A Capitol Fourth" concert and fireworks on the Mall. (To learn more about points of interest on the National Mall, such as Constitution Gardens and the National World War II Memorial, read "On the Road to 250!" on page 12.)

### Mass Appeal

The federal city's smorgasbord of attractions constitutes a veritable feast. In recent years the District's dining scene has emerged as its most





buzzworthy dish. Steakhouses and power lunch spots still have their seats at the table, as do local institutions such as Ben's Chili Bowl. José Andrés, the renowned restaurateur and philanthropist who founded World Central Kitchen in 2010, sits at its head. But seats have also opened for creative chefs serving cuisine from Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa—proof that the U.S. remains a melting pot, and a delicious one at that.

More comprehensive than a collegiate course catalog, the D.C. museum roster offers a myriad avenues of exploration. The Smithsonian Institution alone encompasses 21 museums, including the National Museum of African American History and Culture, a relative newcomer opened in 2016; the

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, a cylindrical building that showcases international modern and contemporary art; and the National Air and Space Museum, whose fully renovated west wing reopened last fall with eight new and renovated galleries.

The Smithsonian Institution Building, more commonly known as the Smithsonian Castle, is the Smithsonian's first and oldest building—and is currently closed for its first renovation in more than 50 years.

Anyone in search of fresh air will breathe easy in 1,700-acre Rock Creek Park, which sits within D.C.'s city limits yet feels a world away, thanks to its stone bridges and wooded creekside trails. A favorite of hikers and bikers, the C&O Canal Towpath begins in Georgetown and follows the Potomac nearly 185 miles northwest to Cumberland, Maryland.

One of the most striking outdoor scenes in the city, the Capitol's original Corinthian columns stand upright at the National Arboretum, surrounded by extensive botanical collections. ☺

## OPEN DOOR POLICY

### How to Tour the White House and Capitol

**T**ours of the White House and U.S. Capitol are two unforgettable, only-in-D.C. experiences available to the public free of charge—but gaining access requires some planning.

The president's house is typically open for public tours from 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, excluding federal holidays unless otherwise noted. The 45-minute, wheelchair-accessible tour route covers the East Wing's public rooms, including the Blue, Red and Green Rooms; the State Dining Room; the China Room; and views of the White House Rose Garden.

All White House tour requests must be submitted to a member of Congress 21–90 days before the desired tour date; the process can be initiated by phone or online. (See [www.whitehouse.gov/visit](http://www.whitehouse.gov/visit) for details.) Visitors are advised to expect long entry lines. Also notable is that no bags are allowed inside, and public restrooms are not available for use during tours. Instead, the nearby White House Visitors Center offers facilities in addition to tactile exhibits, galleries and the White House Historical Association's flagship retail store.

Reservations are also recommended for Capitol tours, available from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except for select holidays. All tours are led by professional guides and visit three key areas: the Rotunda, where the Apotheosis of Washington fresco hovers above massive paintings depicting historical scenes; National Statuary Hall, containing some of the 100 state-selected statues in the collection, which now sprawls across the Capitol complex; and the Crypt, which instead of burials houses the white marble “compass stone” marking the center of the Capitol, the point from which the city is divided into quadrants.

Capitol tours can be booked online at [www.visitthecapitol.gov](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov). To check the availability of specialty tours such as Halls of the Senate, Heroes of Civil Rights, Indigenous Peoples in Capitol Art and Votes for Women, visit the information desk in Emancipation Hall.

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture







Note: This map is not drawn to scale, and positions of sites are approximate and not inclusive of all points of interest. The Smithsonian Castle is closed for approximately two years for renovations.



## At Home and in the Studio With

# Marian Anderson

/ By Bill Hudgins /

**Sites in Philadelphia and Connecticut offer insights into the life of the beloved opera singer, breaker of racial barriers**

**Marian Anderson** (February 27, 1897–April 8, 1993) was one of the most beloved opera singers of the 20th century, celebrated for her glorious contralto as well as for breaking racial barriers in a deeply segregated America. She rose from an impoverished childhood in Philadelphia to international fame, performing before audiences around the world.

Anderson was the first African-American to sing in a leading role with the Metropolitan Opera. She also sang at the inaugurations of Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy, and she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal, among many other honors.

When she was in America, she called two places home. One was a house at 762 Martin Street in Philadelphia that she bought in 1924 as a home for her mother, her sister and herself. The other was a farm outside Danbury, Connecticut, and its small studio was where she could rehearse and recharge from touring.

Marian Anderson's legacy is inextricably bound up with the DAR, which refused to let her perform at Constitution Hall in 1939 because of her race. The story set off a furor, prompting Eleanor Roosevelt and numerous other Daughters to resign from the organization.

At the First Lady's request, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes arranged for Anderson to perform at the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday. Some 75,000 people of all races attended the concert—and 10-year-old Martin Luther King Jr. was among the millions listening on the radio.

In the wake of this key event in the American civil rights movement, the DAR abolished its "white artists only" policy and apologized profusely to Anderson. She accepted the apology and subsequently performed

multiple times at Constitution Hall to integrated audiences—and even launched her farewell American tour at the venue.

Since then, the DAR has committed to and been deeply involved in commemorating Anderson's life and career and furthering her legacy. A statement on its website says the



Anderson's original Victorian home in Danbury, Connecticut, was later destroyed by fire.







DAR "deeply regrets that it did not give Marian Anderson the opportunity to perform her 1939 Easter concert in Constitution Hall, but today we join all Americans in grateful recognition that her historic performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial was a pivotal point in the struggle for racial equality." (Read more about Anderson and DAR at [www.dar.org/MarianAnderson](http://www.dar.org/MarianAnderson).)

### 'Mrs. Fisher' of Danbury

In 1940, Anderson and Orpheus "King" Fisher, her architect husband-to-be, bought a 100-acre farm outside Danbury as a retreat. They had tried to find property closer to New York City but were barred because of their race. Fisher, who could pass for white, had been negotiating to buy 50 acres, but the owners balked when they learned he and his wife were African-American.



Anderson with her husband, Orpheus Fisher

Fisher designed the ranch-style home that still stands (although much altered) today.

He also designed and built a separate practice studio for Anderson. Though the studio measured only 24 by 20 feet, its cove ceiling gave it superb acoustics. To maintain those acoustics, the studio had few furnishings other than a baby grand piano.

Anderson and Fisher actively participated in the life of "Hat City," the nickname given to Danbury for its former status as a major 19th-century hat manufacturer. Anderson—who preferred to be called "Mrs. Fisher" around Danbury—served



Anderson's relocated studio

on the Danbury Music Centre Board of Directors and was involved in local musical productions. Fisher designed the town's New Hope Baptist Church, which they attended.

The couple felt at home in Danbury, which was an unusually diverse city, said Brigid Guertin, director of the Danbury Museum & Historical Society. The booming hat industry had attracted job-hungry immigrants from many countries, she said.

Fisher died in 1986. Anderson lived at the farm until 1992, when she moved to Portland, Oregon, to be close to her nephew, symphony conductor James DePreist. She was in poor health and died on April 8, 1993.

The couple had presold the property to a developer, who planned to clear it for development. A drive began to save the studio and relocate it to the museum. The campaign included the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, the city of Danbury, the museum, area residents, the Mary Wooster DAR Chapter and other groups.

The developer agreed to let them relocate the studio. It was moved in 1999, restored, and opened in 2004 to the public. Guertin said the studio aimed to "explore and explain Anderson's place in history and her legacy, and perhaps inspire a new generation to boldly follow her lead."

The studio, which is a stop on Connecticut's African American Freedom Trail, features a diverse collection of Anderson memorabilia, including gowns, dresses, photographs, sheet music, magazine covers, a baby grand piano and record album covers. Docents relate Anderson's story to visitors, who can watch performances on large-screen TVs and hear, often for the first time, her thrilling voice.

(Read more about the Danbury Museum & Historical Society at [www.danburymuseum.org](http://www.danburymuseum.org).)



Marian Anderson's pitch pipe



## 'Marian Anderson Village'

Philadelphia's Marian Anderson Historical Residence Museum was founded in 1998 by concert pianist Blanche Burton-Lyles, a protégé of Anderson who wished to preserve her legacy and further her educational and philanthropic programs. The three-story Italianate-style house is on the National Register of Historic Places, said CEO Jillian Patricia Pirtle, who is also a vocalist and actress.

The house is the heart of what Burton-Lyles, who died in 2018, called "Marian Anderson Village," places important to Anderson's early life. These include Union Baptist Church, which Anderson attended and where she was nicknamed "The Baby Contralto" when she sang in the adult choir. Other locations include her elementary school and the city's Marian Anderson Recreation Center.

Anderson purchased the house in 1924 with earnings from her first major tour. She lived there until marrying and moving to Danbury in 1943.

Her mother, Annie Delilah Rucker, and sister Ethel lived there until their deaths in 1964 and 1990, respectively.

The house underwent considerable renovation and expansion after Anderson bought it. She converted the basement into an entertainment center, a congenial gathering place for African-American friends who were banned from white-owned establishments. Besides neighbors and local friends, guests included an A-list of American entertainers such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong, Maria Callas and Bessie Smith, Pirtle said.

Anderson sold the house in 1990. The building was in relatively good condition when Burton-Lyles bought it, but many of Anderson's effects had been sold, donated or given away after her death. During her lifetime, Anderson also gave personal items to friends and admirers, Pirtle said.

Many recipients returned the items as word spread about Burton-Lyles' plans for the house. Today the house feels warm and cozy, and visitors often comment that it feels as if Anderson has merely stepped out for a moment, Pirtle said.



Exterior of Anderson's Philadelphia row house



Disaster struck in 2020 when a burst water main inundated the basement, and torrential rains from Hurricane Ida caved in the roof and ceilings and drenched the upper floors. A restoration report estimated damages at \$491,000, including not only structural repairs but also restoring waterlogged memorabilia such as a large photo of Anderson and renowned bass-baritone and actor Paul Robeson.

At the end of 2022, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution made a donation of \$150,000 to assist with repairs and restoration, a gift that DAR President General Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright called an "honor and privilege" to give. After the repairs are completed, the Philadelphia Historical Commission will perform an inspection to determine when the museum can reopen to the public.

Until then, the museum will continue to offer virtual tours. Pirtle has also continued the National Marian Anderson Scholar Artist Program the singer launched in 1950 to support and encourage young performers. Both Burton-Lyles and Pirtle were Scholar Artists.

Pirtle is committed to expanding awareness of the house museum's place in Anderson's life and in American history. "It should be deemed just as important as any historic landmark and museum in the United States," on a par with such landmarks as Mount Vernon and Monticello, she said.

(Read more about the National Anderson Museum and Historical Society at <http://marianandersonhistorical.society.weebly.com>.)





— ★ AMERICA'S TREASURE ★ —

# America's First National Park

By Kim Hill

Famous for geysers and grizzlies,  
Yellowstone must be seen to be believed

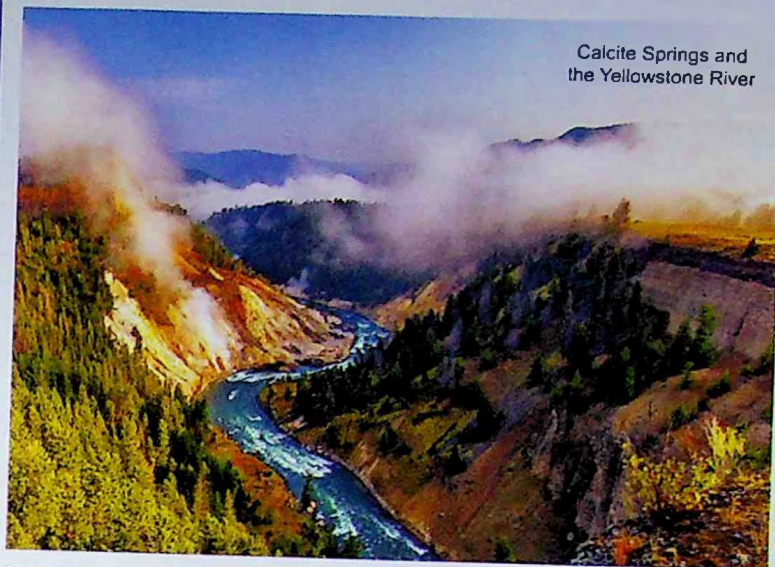
In the first half of the 19th century, frontiersmen and explorers described a place of fire and brimstone in the country's unmapped western wilderness. Their tales depicting boiling water spewing forth from the ground and mud bubbling like stew in a camp pot reached newspaper publishers in the East, where their stories were curtly dismissed as fiction.

Old Faithful geyser at dusk in  
Yellowstone National Park





GETTY IMAGES



Calcite Springs and the Yellowstone River

The same spouting springs, gurgling mud pots and multihued hot springs that captured the fancy of trappers and mountain men instill similar amazement in today's visitors to Yellowstone National Park.

### Geology and History

Human history in the park region goes back more than 11,000 years. Lewis and Clark expedition member John Colter left the group on their 1806 return journey and wandered through areas of the future park. Colter's description of a place of "hot spring brimstone" was dismissed. Post-Civil War trekkers included the Washburn Expedition of 1870, led in part by Nathaniel P. Langford. He and others promoted a congressional bill to close the area to private development. Ferdinand V. Hayden, the head of the U.S. Geological and Geographic Survey, made several journeys into the area, bringing numerous scientists, an artist and a photographer on their 1871 expedition. Thanks to these and other reports, Congress established Yellowstone National Park just six months later. With President Ulysses S. Grant's signature in 1872, Yellowstone became the nation's first national park. Langford was named the first superintendent, an unpaid post.



At the time, the park was established primarily to protect the geothermal areas, which contain about half the world's active geysers. Yellowstone is sited atop a gigantic volcanic caldera and located primarily in northwestern Wyoming. At more than 3,470 square miles, the park is the centerpiece of

organisms called thermophiles. Grand Prismatic, which the Hayden expedition named for its striking coloration, is the largest hot spring in the U.S.

The mineral-rich hot waters flowing to the surface at Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces help make this one of the most colorful areas of the park. Masses of bacteria and algae cause the various colors, which seem to change as you watch.

The multihued colors of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone are the results of rhyolite and sediments. The Yellowstone River's erosion has carved the V-shaped valley and continues to do so. View the splendor up close via the trails along the rims or by descending into the canyon.

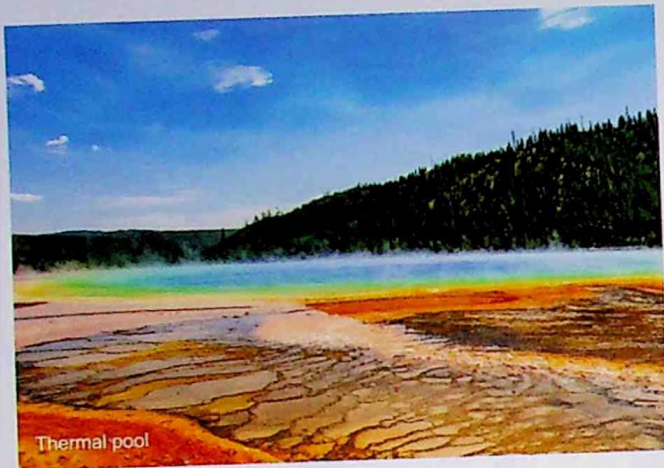
Plentiful, diverse wildlife in Yellowstone ranges from bighorn sheep to bears, both grizzly and black. The Lamar Valley, in the northeastern corner of the park, is one of the best places to see large animals, such as bison, grizzly bears, black bears, wolves and coyotes. Bison can also be found in the Hayden Valley, an unspoiled area of grasslands where they live year-round and graze along the Yellowstone River.

Enjoy hiking, horseback riding, camping, biking, painting, photography tours and boating, including guided boat trips on Yellowstone Lake, where fishing for Yellowstone cutthroat trout has been a popular pastime since the earliest explorers and tourists visited the area. The lakeshore is also the location of Fishing Cone, a hot spring in the West Thumb Geyser Basin. Although now strictly prohibited, cooking your catch in the cone's boiling water while it was still on the hook was a tourist's must-do in the early 1900s.

Hundreds of buildings, roads, bridges and other structures within Yellowstone have been designated as culturally significant. History buffs will appreciate visiting the park's National Historic Landmarks, which include Old Faithful Inn (built in 1903–1904 and considered the largest log structure in the world) and Fort Yellowstone (from the three decades when the U.S. Army administered the park).

### First in the Nation and the World

Yellowstone is not only our nation's first national park but also the first in the world. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Yellowstone draws millions of visitors every year who can attest that the "yarns" spun by early explorers are far from fiction in this mythical place. 🌿



the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the Earth's largest nearly intact temperate zone ecosystems. This diverse ecosystem includes not only hydrothermal features but also abundant flora and fauna, lakes, and geologic wonders such as the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River.

### Things to See and Do

Yellowstone's hydrothermal features help draw more than 4 million annual visitors to the park. Heat from the immense Yellowstone supervolcano transfers to groundwater, which makes its way to the surface as hot springs, mud pots, fumaroles (or steam vents) and geysers. Old Faithful is perhaps the most famous geyser in the world, erupting every 35–120 minutes on average. Old Faithful is in the Upper Geyser Basin, home to the largest number of geysers in the park and numerous hot springs.

Steamboat Geyser, the largest active geyser in the world, can reach heights exceeding 300 feet. It is in Norris Geyser Basin, one of the park's oldest, hottest and most acidic hydrothermal areas. The otherworldly colors of Grand Prismatic Spring at Midway Geyser Basin are caused by heat-loving microscopic



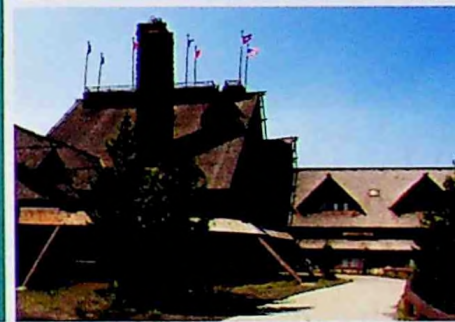
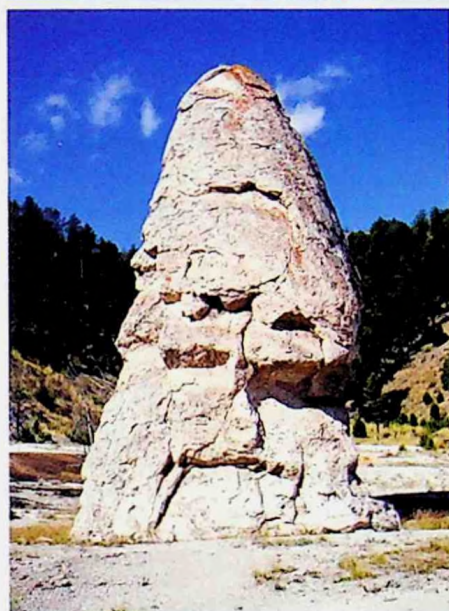




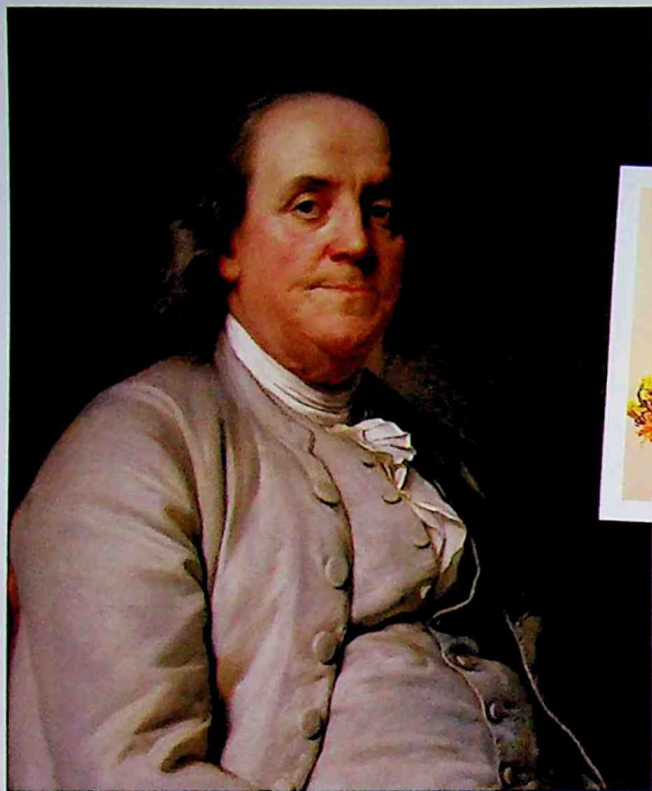
### Where to Stay in Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park has a variety of lodging options, ranging from nine lodges (with both hotel and cabin accommodations), RV and tent campgrounds, and hundreds of primitive backcountry campsites.

Visit [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/index.htm) to learn more.







## My Patriot: Benjamin Franklin

North Carolina Daughter draws a line  
from Founding Father to her life

By Lena Anthony

**Unlike many Founding Fathers'**, Benjamin Franklin's role in the formation of our nation was the end, not the beginning, of an illustrious career. The oldest Founding Father, he was 81 when he signed the U.S. Constitution. The 1787 Constitutional Convention, where this signing took place, would be Franklin's last major public appearance before his death in 1790 at the age of 84.

His contributions to the nation's founding are many. Franklin is the only Founding Father to have signed all four of the documents that helped create the United States: the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the Treaty of Alliance

with France in 1778, the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and, of course, the Constitution.

He is credited with helping to write the first and last of these documents and with helping to secure much-needed support from France. With Silas Deane and Arthur Lee, he negotiated both treaties. He was America's first diplomat.



But it is the earlier years of Franklin's career, officially as a printer but also as an inventor, that capture the imagination of many Americans. His vast and varied list of inventions includes swim fins, a lightning rod, bifo-

cals, a catheter and a musical instrument. But, no, he did not discover electricity (nor was he struck by lightning).

Kay Herr, a member of the Rachel Caldwell DAR Chapter in Greensboro, North Carolina, grew up knowing that she was descended from this larger-than-life Patriot. The relationship is by way of Sarah (Sally) Franklin, Franklin's only daughter, and her marriage to Richard Bache. Sally and Richard had eight children, seven of whom survived childhood and helped produce a prolific family tree.

At a Franklin family reunion, which takes place every five years, Ms. Herr discovered just how impressive her family legacy is—with 74 naval officers, 16 rear admirals, four four-star generals, two surgeon generals and a destroyer, the USS *Bache*.

"I thought that was really something," she said. "That one man could have a family that does so much for this country."

Ms. Herr may have always known of her famous Founding Father ancestor, but her appreciation for him and his contributions evolved as she got older. As a child, she recalled, she giggled with her siblings and cousins as they listened to stories about Franklin taking frequent "air baths," which entailed sitting in the nude by an open window.

It was much later that she learned of the hobby she shared with her seventh great-grandfather. "I was a swimmer growing up and I was so thrilled, but not all that surprised, to learn that Benjamin Franklin was quite the swimmer when he was a young boy," she said.

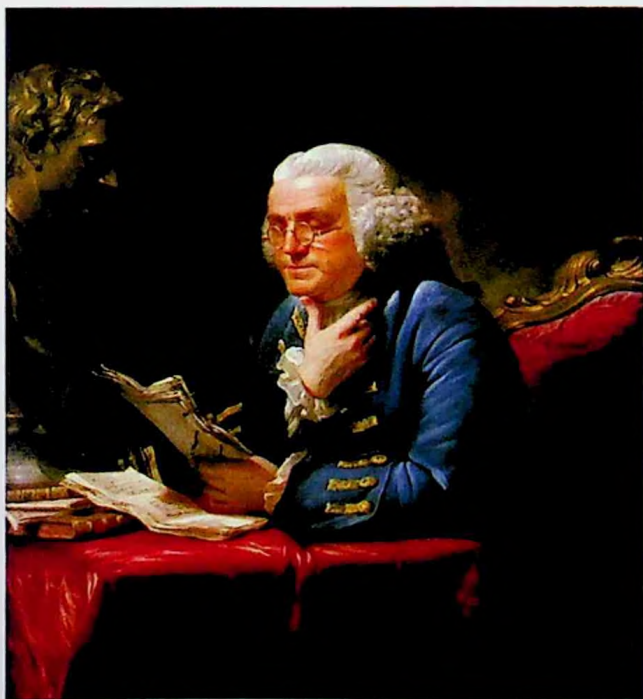
Not only that, he was a vocal proponent of swimming as a lifesaving skill every man should acquire. "I wish all men were



taught to do so in their youth; they would, on many occurrences, be the safer for having that skill, and on many more the happier, as freer from painful apprehensions of danger, to say nothing of the enjoyment in so delightful and wholesome an exercise," he wrote in *Experiments and Observations on Electricity*, published in 1769.

Franklin's early love of swimming led him, in 1717, at the age of 11, to invent the hand and foot paddles that we now know as swim fins. "What that tells me is even from a young age, he was always looking for ways to make life easier and more comfortable for people," Ms. Herr said. "Later in life, as his vision declined but his love of reading persisted, he invented bifocals."

Of all his contributions, both to our nation's founding and to modern society, one that does not remain is a residence. While America takes pride in George Washington's Mount Vernon, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier, it has no brick-and-mortar relic of Franklin, the family man. His only remaining home is in London, England. Franklin Court, the site of his Philadelphia residence during the Revolution and of his death in 1790, was torn down in the early 19th century. Today, a steel "ghost structure" outlines the spot where the house stood.



**"He was so smart and wise, of course, but what I love most about him was his ability to bring people together. He dined with kings and queens, but he believed in the common man."**

— KAY HERR

"We are lucky that so many of his writings and personal items, including chairs and pieces of pottery, have been preserved, but it is a shame and quite sad that his homes have been torn down," Ms. Herr said. "Even Sarah and Richard's home on the Delaware River in Pennsylvania is gone. My sister and I went in search of that house, but because it was never designated for historic preservation, all we found were some bricks."

Ms. Herr knows it's not possible, but she would love to be able to sit down with her seventh great-grandfather today.

"I think he'd sit back and listen and have some advice about what should be done in the country today," she said. "He was so smart and wise, of course, but what I love most about him was his ability to bring people together. He dined with kings and queens, but he believed in the common man."

Ms. Herr's grandmother and aunt were longtime members of the DAR. They had always encouraged her to join, but raising a family while working full time as a nurse prevented her from pursuing it—until recently. Like her seventh-great grandfather before her, Ms. Herr worked until the age of 81, retiring in 2021. She became a member of the Rachel Caldwell Chapter the following year and has thrown herself into the organization's mission.

"I wanted to contribute something to this country, too," she said. "Certainly nothing like Benjamin Franklin, but I thought through DAR I could make a tiny little dent—to help remind my fellow Americans of who we are and where we came from."

She especially enjoys working on the chapter's DAR Scholarships Committee. "I just love seeing the goodness in these youngsters and that they see how important it is to know where we came from and to know who came before," she said. "Because the truth is, if the Founding Fathers hadn't been there all those years ago, we wouldn't be here today." 🍷



## Telling Her Story

**Women's Military Memorial president looks to fellow DAR members to help collect stories of women, past and present, who have served our nation**

By Lena Anthony

The **Women's Military Memorial**, located at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, has a long-standing history with the DAR. In fact, it traces all the way back to one of the DAR's founding objectives: to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence.

In 1898, the DAR Hospital Corps certified 1,081 nurses for service during the Spanish-American War, and those nurses became some of the first women to serve officially in the U.S. military. The Women's Military Memorial's founder and first president, retired Air Force Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, is a DAR member. The memorial's current president, retired Army Chief Warrant Officer Five Phyllis Wilson, is as well.

It makes sense, then, that the Women's Military Memorial would look to the DAR for help with its latest campaign: collecting, before the end of the year, 23,000 stories of women who have served or are currently serving our nation. That is 23K in 2023.

"When we set this ambitious goal, we knew that Daughters would be the perfect partners to help us reach it," Ms. Wilson said. "Many Daughters have a history of military service in their own families. Many Daughters routinely volunteer in nursing homes or with veterans organizations where women veterans reside or are members. As Daughters, we are all from Patriots, and it is important that we continue to tell this very patriotic story for generations to come."

In addition to a physical memorial at the gateway of Arlington Cemetery, the Women's Military Memorial includes a 33,000-square-foot education center that houses the Register, a computerized database of military histories, photographs and individual stories of 306,000 women who have served in or with the Armed Forces, beginning with the

American Revolution. It is the only historical repository documenting all military women's service.

While Ms. Wilson's calendar is filled with speaking engagements and other "presidential" duties, one of her favorite parts of the day is filling a few unscheduled minutes browsing the Register.

"There's so much to find in there," she said. "Of course, the well-known stories are in there, but some of my favorites are about the 'Any Woman USA' who answered the call."

She is referring to the stories of women like Lina Stratton, a World War II nurse from Memphis, Tennessee, whose handwritten letter is now part of the Women's Military Memorial collection.

"It details all of the things she remembers about her time serving as a nurse, first in North Africa and then on the front lines of the Battle of the Bulge,"

Ms. Wilson said. "When I came across it, I wasn't having the best day at work. I made myself a cup of tea and read the whole thing and found it so fascinating. Had she not registered her story, I might not be able to tell it today."

When Ms. Wilson became president of the Women's Military Memorial in 2020, the stories in the database numbered fewer than 300,000. Despite the steady gains and the push this year to add 23,000 more, that still leaves 2.7 million women's military service stories untold.

"Together, we can help them claim their place in history," she said. "If each Chapter could commit to adding five women—women in their communities, in their families, maybe even their Chapter namesake, who served our country—we can easily reach our goal."

Want to learn more about Ms. Wilson? She also was featured in the November/December 2020 issue of *American Spirit*. ☼



Phyllis Wilson

### The Women's Military Memorial Needs You!

Ready to answer Ms. Wilson's call to help the Women's Military Memorial collect 23,000 stories by the end of 2023? Go to [womensmemorial.org](https://www.womensmemorial.org) and click on "Create An Account" to get started today!





- \_\_\_ Female Ancestor Research - \$12.95 (\$9.95 + \$3.00 S/H)
- \_\_\_ Genealogy Research Using Google - \$12.95 (\$9.95 + \$3.00 S/H)
- \_\_\_ A Genealogist's Guide to Newspaper Research - \$12.95 (\$9.95 + \$3.00 S/H)
- \_\_\_ Eastern European Research: A Practical Guide - \$12.95 (\$9.95 + \$3.00 S/H)
- \_\_\_ Tips & Tricks for Online Genealogy Research - \$12.95 (\$9.95 + \$3.00 S/H)
- \_\_\_ Irish Research: A Practical Guide - \$12.95 (\$9.95 + \$3.00 S/H)
- \_\_\_ Hispanic Research: A Practical Guide - \$12.95 (\$9.95 + \$3.00 S/H)
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# Caroline Scott Harrison

## 1st President General

INDIANA | 1890–1892

Caroline Scott Harrison, National Number 7, addressed the Daughters of the American Revolution at the opening of the First Continental Congress at the Church of Our Father in Washington, D.C., on February 22, 1892. In the first public speech given by a First Lady, she recalled the Society's founding and encouraged the members to "strengthen and improve what has already been so well begun." Optimistic as the fledgling Society looked to the future, Mrs. Harrison observed that the organization was "in good condition for continued success."

**In order for DAR to be a National Society,** the Founders realized, it would be necessary to find a woman to serve as President General who would represent the whole country, not merely a part of it. She should be someone whose husband enjoyed a prominent place in society commensurate with the period and whose position would add prestige to the newly formed organization.

In October 1890, at the urging of Founder Mary Desha, Founding Officer Mary Virginia Ellet Cabell visited Mrs. Harrison to ask her to serve as President General. She accepted but because of her duties as First Lady, did so only upon the

guarantee that Mrs. Cabell would perform many of the daily responsibilities.

### Getting to Know the First President General

Caroline Lavinia Scott was born on October 1, 1832, in Oxford, Ohio. Her parents were Mary Potts Neal and John Witherspoon Scott, a college professor and the first president of the Oxford Female Institute, which offered educational opportunities for women. She attended the institute and graduated in 1853 with a degree in music.





On February 22, 1894, the DAR presented a portrait of First Lady Caroline Scott Harrison to the White House. A copy, pictured here, hangs in the President General's Reception Room at National Headquarters.



She married Benjamin Harrison on October 20, 1853. Two children survived to adulthood: a son, Russell, and a daughter, Mary. The family struggled while Mr. Harrison established a law practice in Indianapolis. However, after his service in the Civil War—he was colonel of the 70th Indiana Volunteer Infantry—his law career prospered, and he became a successful politician.

Although her health was often precarious and she suffered from chronic respiratory ailments, Mrs. Harrison was known as a cheerful, gentle person with a good sense of humor. Her greatest love was for home and family. Deeply religious and supportive, she donated time to her church, women's groups and her art. She liked to act out books for her "Impromptu Club" and enjoyed reading aloud. Because of her love for music, she encouraged her children to learn to dance. Broad-minded, empathetic and intelligent, she was able to view both sides of an issue.



## Service as First Lady of the United States

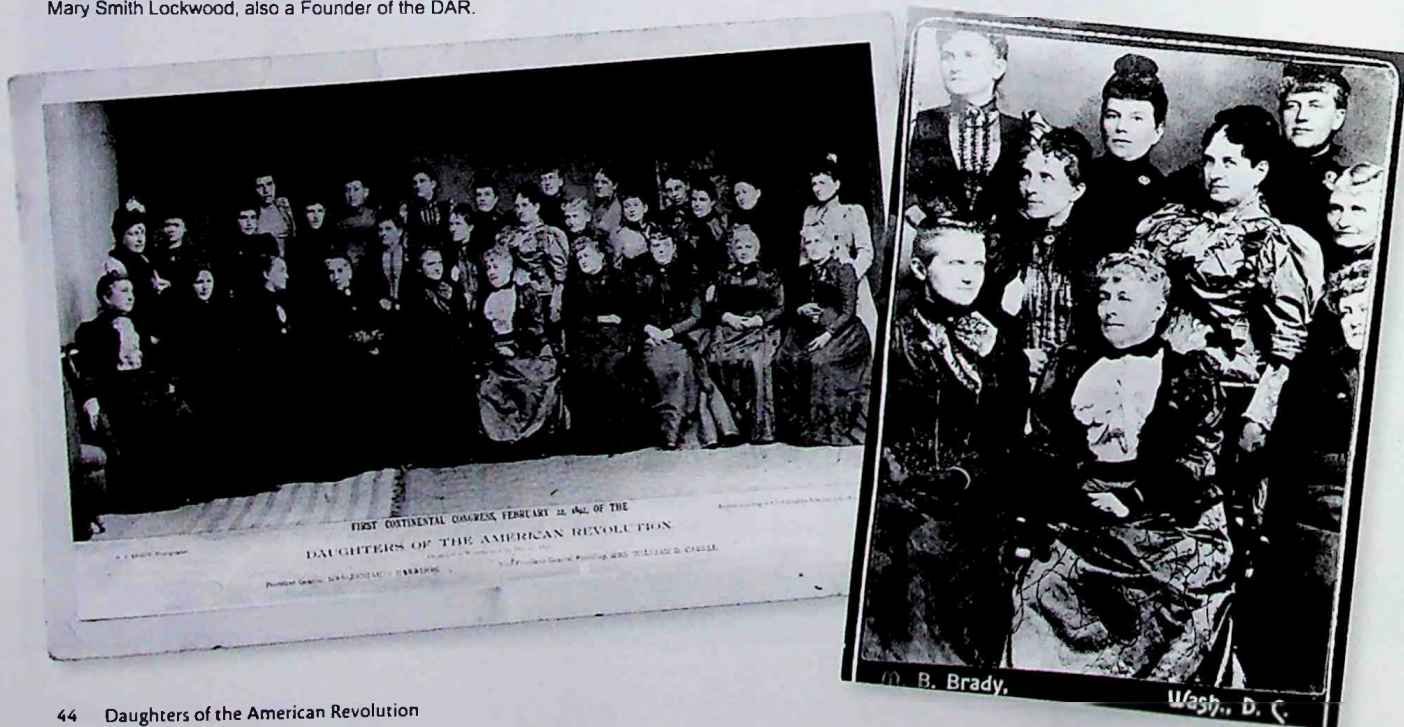
Benjamin Harrison's election to the United States Senate in 1881 brought Mrs. Harrison to the nation's capital for the first time, but a serious fall undermined her health. In 1883, she had surgery in New York that required a lengthy recovery.

Five years later, in November 1888, Benjamin Harrison was elected president. Mrs. Harrison was an asset during the campaign as her charm, sincerity and open manner offset her husband's sometimes cool demeanor.

She spoke often to members of the press. The Harrisons' financial situation was uncertain, and she is said to have joked, "Well, husband, it's either to the White House with us or the poor house."

Mrs. Harrison was involved in several women's issues, even before her husband became president. During his law career, she gave active service to the First Presbyterian Church and to an orphans home, according to her biography on [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov). During his presidential term, she helped raise funds for the Johns Hopkins University School of

**Below:** The famed photograph studio of Mathew Brady captured the first DAR Continental Congress, held on February 22–24, 1892. The close-up image shows President General Caroline Scott Harrison (center) with Vice President Presiding Mary Virginia Ellet Cabell, Recording Secretary General Mary H. Shields and Historian General Mary Smith Lockwood, also a Founder of the DAR.

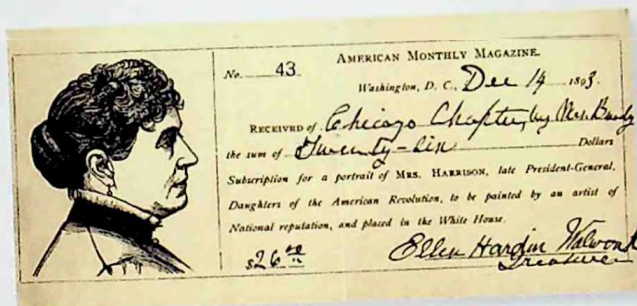




Medicine on the condition that it admit women. The school agreed to accept women, and Mrs. Harrison hosted receptions and fundraisers for it.

She gave elegant receptions and dinners at the White House. Mrs. Harrison also accompanied her husband to the Centennial celebrations of the presidency in 1889 and even christened the USS *Philadelphia* battleship. In the winter of 1891–1892, however, she fulfilled her social obligations while fighting illness.

During the administration, the Harrisons' daughter, Mary Harrison McKee, her two children and other relatives lived in the White House. The First Lady tried to have the overcrowded mansion enlarged, even going so far as to draw up detailed



Signed by DAR Founder and Magazine Editor-in-Chief Ellen Hardin Walworth, this receipt is for a donation to the White House portrait of Caroline Scott Harrison in 1893 from Mary Bundy of the Chicago Chapter. Mrs. Walworth suggested that the DAR commission the portrait of Caroline Scott Harrison as a gift to the White House.

plans for adding east and west wings. Her grand plans failed, but she oversaw an extensive renovation that included the installation of electricity.

## An Aspiring Artist

In addition to being a talented pianist, Mrs. Harrison was also an artist. Her oil paintings hung on the walls of the Harrison home in Indiana. When the family moved to the White House, she set up a studio in the attic where she spent many hours, according to a 1942 article written by her niece Kate Scott Brooks.

In Washington, D.C., she studied flowers and discovered that orchids intrigued her. Her paintings of orchids inspired the use of the orchid as the DAR's unofficial flower—and several of



A gifted artist, Caroline Scott Harrison used her favorite flower, the orchid, as the subject of many of her paintings. In 1890, she painted a "White House Orchid" with her watercolors and dedicated it to "mothers, wives and daughters of America." This painting was lithographed and distributed in 1892 and reproduced in 1965 and 1990 to commemorate the DAR's Diamond and Centennial Jubilees.

her floral paintings now hang in the Office of the President General at DAR Headquarters.

Mrs. Harrison took a special interest in china, which led her to catalog the china used by past presidential administrations. In so doing, she established the collection of presidential china still in use today. She had a cabinet specially made for the collection. Mrs. Harrison designed her own White House china using a motif that included ears of corn and goldenrod.

Caroline Scott Harrison died on October 25, 1892—two years after the founding of the National Society—at the White House after a long struggle with tuberculosis. Her funeral was held in the East Room of the White House. She is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. The DAR is honored and thankful to the former First Lady for accepting

the role of the first President General and leaving a legacy of service, education and patriotism. ☺

**Note From the Editor:** This profile of Mrs. Harrison is an adaptation of the profile in *Wide Blue Sash*.





President General  
Julia Scott with  
Pages, 1910



NEW  
MEMBER!



Pages,  
1939



Rosette  
pin, first  
Continental  
Congress

# CONTINENTAL CONGRESS *Photo Scrapbook*



President General  
Lora Cook with  
Pages, early 1920s

These retro  
images offer  
a glimpse into  
past Continental  
Congresses. We  
look forward  
to welcoming  
you home to our  
House Beautiful  
this year!

Pages,  
1929



Pages pose in 1946





President General Allene Groves  
with Pages, 1959



President General  
Patricia Shelby  
with Pages



Pages take a break, 1939



President General  
Ann Fleck with Pages



President General  
Julia Scott with Pages



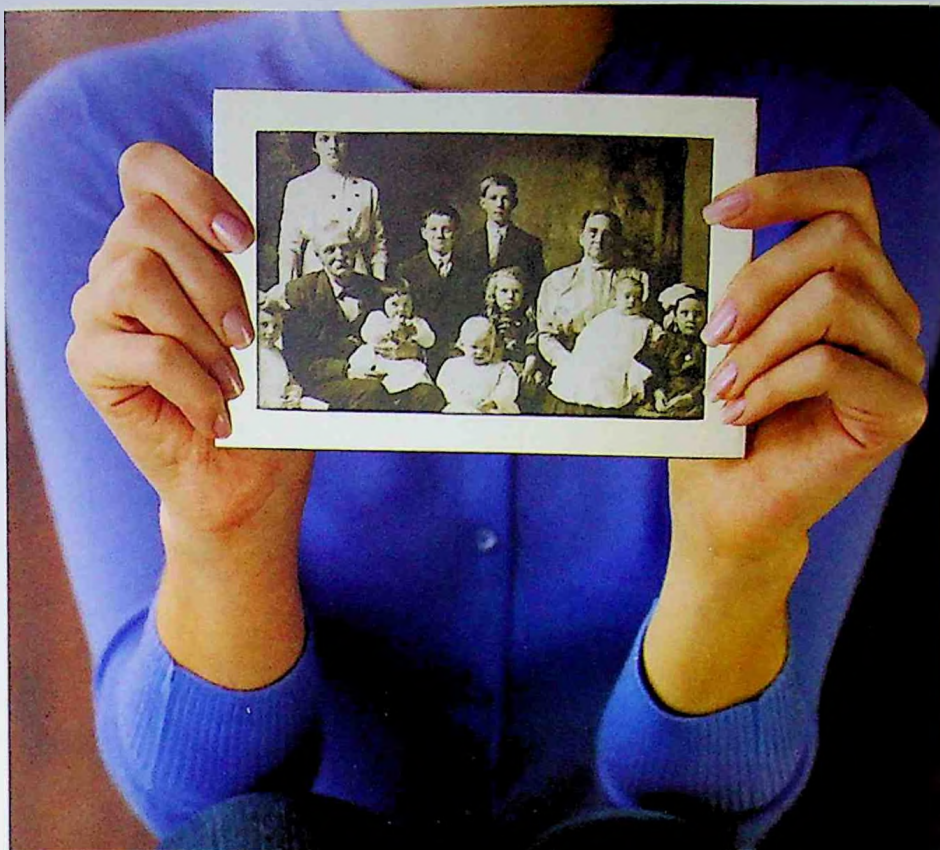
President General  
Estella O'Byrne with  
Pages, 1949



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## Who is eligible for membership?

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step into the world of genealogy.

## How is 'Patriot' defined?

DAR recognizes Patriots not only as soldiers, but also anyone who contributed to the cause of American freedom. To find out if your ancestor is recognized by the DAR as a Revolutionary Patriot, use the request form available online. Visit **[www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)** and click on "Membership."

## How many members does the National Society have?

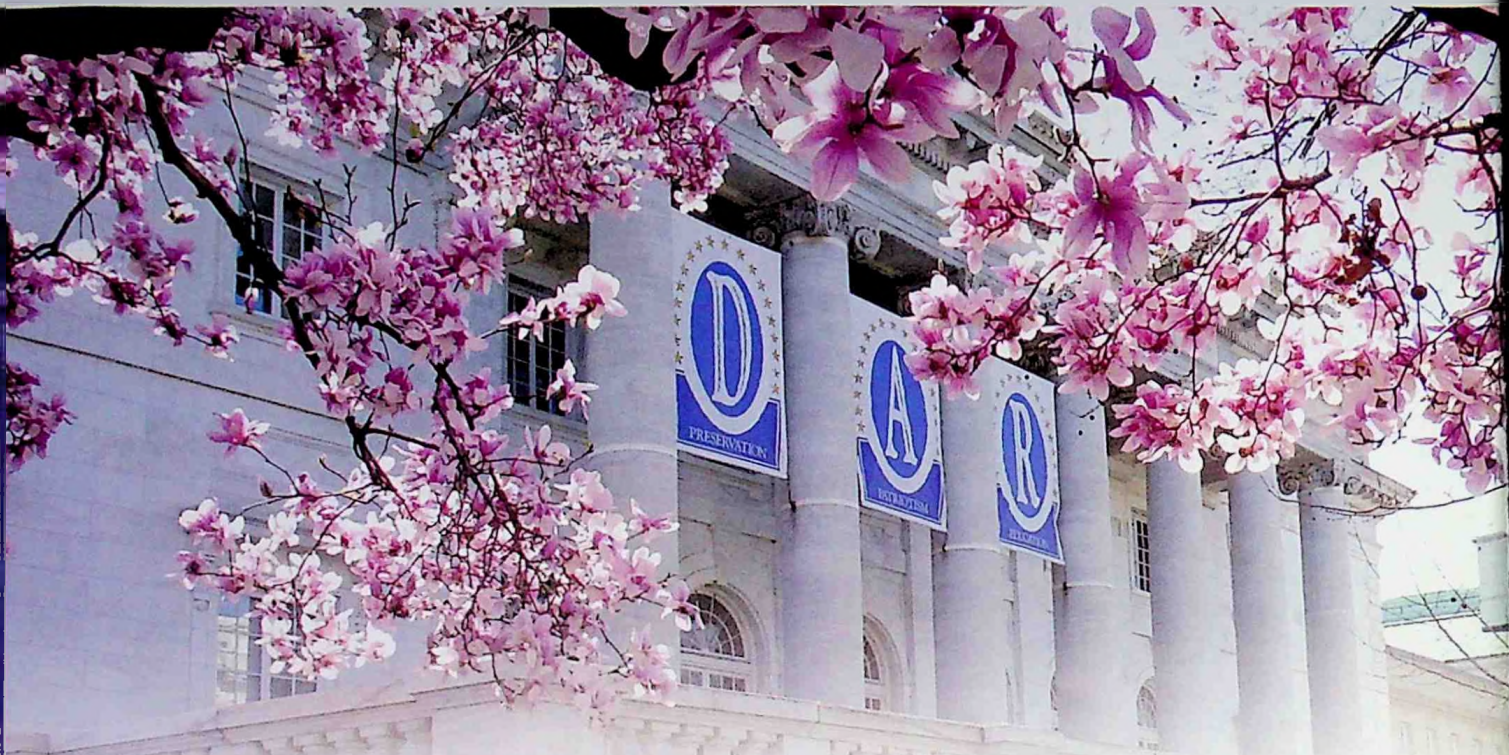
DAR has nearly 190,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 14 foreign countries and one territory. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 1 million members.

## How can I find out more?

Go to **[www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)** and click on "Membership." There you will find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 879-3224 for more information on joining this vital, service-minded organization.



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